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House Restores Assassinations Panel for 2 Months

By George Lardner Jr.
Washington Post Staff Writer

The House voted last night to restore its investigation into the assassinations of President Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr. but put it on two months' probation.

The resuscitation, approved 237 to 164, gives the House Select Committee on Assassinations until March 31 to work out a palatable budget and to adopt rules that will safeguard the rights of witnesses and others who might become targets of the inquiry.

Rep. Henry B. Gonzalez (D-Tex.), who was immediately named the committee's new chairman, said he hoped to hold a meeting today in an effort to get moving again, although only "a minimum of investigative work" will be possible in the next few weeks.

Under the resolution adopted last night, the committee will have to confine its spending to $84,000 a month—the amount it incurred in December before it went out of business under a rush of criticisms over its proposed budget and investigating techniques.

Republicans, led by Rep. James H. Quillen (R-Tenn.), favored killing the investigation by more than 2 to 1, but the temporary revival was fashioned as a compromise measure and had the support of the House Democratic leadership. The Democratic majority voted for it by nearly 3 to 1.

Leading off the opposition, Quillen cited a report yesterday morning by United Press International that a Justice Department study undertaken last year had concluded that James Earl Ray was King's lone assassin in the 1968 Memphis killing.

The 148-page study, commissioned last year after Senate disclosures that the FBI had conducted a long undercover campaign to discredit King, has yet to be made public, ostensibly because of the change in administrations and because the Justice Department did not want to appear to be influencing the House decision.

The leak of the finding about Ray immediately touched off suspicions among supporters of the congressional investigation that it was an attempt to squelch the investigation. House Speaker Thomas P. (Tip) O'Neill told reporters that he regarded the timing of the leak as "very unfortunate."

Justice Department sources disclaimed responsibility and pointed out that classified copies of the report, which was completed Jan. 10, had been sent to Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman James O. Eastland (D-Miss.), Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Daniel K. Inouye (D-Hawaii) and House Judiciary Committee Chairman Peter W. Rodino (D-N.J.).

The sources also said that the report, while concluding that the FBI conducted an adequately professional investigation of the King murder, makes plain that the bureau's work had shortcomings.

"It's not going to make anyone happy," said one source familiar with the report.

Rep. Yvonne Burke (D-Calif.) protested sharply that the Justice Department yesterday would not supply her with a copy even though she is a member of the House Appropriations subcommittee for the Justice Department as well as of the assassinations committee.

Quillen used the reports about the study to support his contention that it would be "irresponsible to relaunch this apparently erratic investigation" which the House initiated last fall. He said he saw no need "for another run around the mulberry bush" of either assassination.

The final vote showed considerable erosion from the 280-to-65 tally creating the committee last September.

Rep. Richardson Preyer (D-N.C.), chairman of the subcommittee investigating the Kennedy assassination, said he felt one of the main reasons for the pronounced shift lay in the fact that the past few months have been one of transition, of a public mood that has been saying:

"We want to put the nightmares behind us and here comes the [assassinations] committee raising all the old ghosts of the past."

Preyer maintained, however, that the investigation should be undertaken because "nothing is finally settled until it's settled right."

"Only 10 per cent of the American people believe the Warren Commission report," Preyer said. "We are not out to tear the nation apart. We are trying to restore its credibility."

Acknowledging that many of the complaints about the investigation have centered on chief committee counsel Richard A. Sprague, Preyer assured congressional critics that the committee will delve into questions raised about Sprague's background and judgment as a "first order of business."

The resolution reviving the committee was adopted after the House rejected an amendment by Rep. Del Clawson (R-Calif.) to delete broad language establishing a legislative purpose for the investigation and another by Rep. Trent Lott (R-Miss.) to deny committee lawyers the authority to secure sworn statements from far-flung witnesses.

The House, however, approved a clarifying amendment offered by House Administration Committee Chairman Frank Thompson Jr. (D-N.J.) to make clear that the committee was not entitled to an additional 30 staff members that it might have claimed. It already has a staff of 73 with a monthly payroll of $123,000; many have agreed to take a voluntary pay cut until the House acts on a permanent budget.

The Washington Post
3 February 1977

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NEW YORK TIMES DATE 4MAR77 AGE 11

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ASSASSINATION PANEL WANTS 3 TO TESTIFY

O'Neill Says Move Is Seen as Way to Shore Up Dr. King Inquiry—Witnesses Are Not Identified

By DAVID BURNHAM
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, March 3—Thomas P. O'Neill Jr., the Speaker of the House, said today that members of the troubled Assassinations Committee hoped that testimony from three witnesses might persuade the House to let the committee continue its investigation into the death of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Mr. O'Neill mentioned the witnesses, and the possibility of a public hearing at which they would testify, after meeting for almost an hour with the Democratic members of the Assassinations Committee. The panel was established last September to look into the remaining questions surrounding the deaths of Dr. King and President Kennedy.

The committee has been wracked by dissension for the last three weeks. Its chairman, Representative Henry B. Gonzalez, Democrat of Texas, submitted his resignation yesterday after accusing other committee members of trying to usurp his power.

The subject of the dispute has been Richard A. Sprague, the committee's chief counsel and director, who Mr. Gonzalez accused of being an "unscrupulous individual, and unconscionable scoundrel."

Mr. Gonzalez has been ill at his home in Texas for the last 10 days, apparently refusing to take any calls except from his staff. Mr. O'Neill, a Massachussets Democrat, has refused to accept Mr. Gonzalez's resignation until he has talked with him. He has said that the resignation would have to be approved by the full House of Representatives.

Representative Jim Wright, the majority leader, and Representative Richardson Preyer, the North Carolina Democrat who is chairman of the subcommittee investigating the Kennedy assassination, said that the full committee would meet on Monday in an attempt to adopt rules and a proposed budget and to consider whether to hold public hearings on the progress and substance of both the Kennedy and King investigations.

The idea of hearings was acknowledged by several committee members as an attempt to redirect the attention of both the Congress and the public to the substance of the investigations, rather than the battle between Mr. Gonzalez and Mr. Sprague.

Members of the committee refused to say who the three witnesses might be. However, Representative Christopher Dodd, Democrat of Connecticut, said in response to questions that they would not include James Earl Ray, the man who pleaded guilty of killing Dr. King and who has indicated that he would like to testify.

Whether the committee could stage hearings before losing its mandate, which expires on March 31, was questioned by Representative John B. Anderson, Republican of Illinois, and a member of the committee.

"A lawyer doesn't put witnesses on the stand before they have been thoroughly interrogated in private," he said, adding that because of various restrictions such private questioning has not yet occurred.

"I'm a little bit mystified as to who these witnesses are and as to what the committee staff things they can contribute," he said.

Mr. Anderson also said he thought it was "absolutely essential" to publicly discuss the allegations made by Mr. Gonzalez against Mr. Sprague before the committee attempted to seek a permanent authorization.

In another development, a spokesman for the Federal Bureau of Investigation confirmed reports that it had received and was investigating a copy of note allegedly sent by Lee Harvey Oswald, the man the Warren Commission said killed President Kennedy, to the late Texas oilman, H. L. Hunt.

The note, dated two weeks before President Kennedy's death, said "Dear Mr. Hunt, I would like information concerning my position. I am asking only for information. I am suggesting that we discuss the matter, fully before any steps are taken by me or anyone else. Thank you."

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ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE A 10

TI WASHINGTON POST
16 March 1977

Sprague: Staff Has 'Conspiracy' Leads

By George Lardner Jr.
Washington Post Staff Writer

The chief counsel of the House Assassinations Committee said yesterday he has gathered uncorroborated "information" suggesting a conspiracy in the murders of both President Kennedy and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

Struggling to keep their investigation alive, committee members convened yesterday in secret session for a briefing from chief counsel Richard A. Sprague and his aides on the progress of the inquiry so far.

In a short statement before the press and public were excluded, Sprague told the committee that the information compiled to date was a blend of reports from "witnesses who have advised us directly that they have relevant information" and hearsay about "witnesses whom we have been told have information."

As a result, he added in straight-face understatement, "We have been unable to do what I would consider a thorough check of the information we have been advised of."

That said, the former Philadelphia prosecutor continued, "The sum total of the information would be in the nature of evidence indicating that others may have had knowledge of or participated in arranging the assassinations of Dr. King and President Kennedy."

Sprague did not elaborate, but it seemed likely that much of the information originated with the many books and articles written in recent years in attempts to debunk the official findings that there was no credible evidence of a conspiracy in either murder. The committee's 73-member staff has been bogged down by controversy in recent weeks, cut off from classified FBI files and unable to travel or even make long-distance phone calls.

Trying to regain its momentum following the resignation of Rep. Henry B. Gonzalez (D-Tex.), who had tried to fire Sprague for alleged mismanagement and insubordination, the committee met formally yesterday for the first time under its new chairman, Rep. Louis Stokes (D-Ohio).

It has only three more weeks to win a new charter from the House and head off extinction. Speaker Thomas P. (Tip) O'Neill Jr. (D-Mass.) and other House leaders have predicted that the committee will probably not be continued past March 31 unless it can produce some striking new evidence or, in O'Neill's words, "something of a sensational nature."

The Warren Commission, which investigated the 1963 Kennedy assassination with the resources of the FBI and other government agencies, concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald, acting alone, killed the President. Similarly, the FBI concluded that James Earl Ray, now serving a 99-year prison term, was King's lone assassin, although a Justice Department task force recently conceded that the sources of Ray's money "still remain a mystery today."

After Sprague's brief public presentation, the committee voted 8 to 2 to go into secret session. Dissenting were Reps. Charles Thone (R-Neb.) and Harold E. Ford (D-Tenn.).

Sprague mentioned no names, not even those of Oswald or Ray, but it seemed clear that the "others" he had in mind were in addition to those two men. He also told the committee that there was some information indicating that some unidentified individuals knew in advance that the Kennedy assassination "was about to occur."

Most of yesterday's session, however, was spent on the King murder. At a lunch hour briefing, Stokes told reporters that the committee was moving with deliberate caution, but he said there was "a very good possibility that some witnesses" may be called to a public hearing before March 31 in an effort to demonstrate the need for continuing the inquiry.

The new chairman would not discuss the witnesses who might testify, but other sources said two under consideration are Ray's brother, Jerry, and former Memphis police detective Edward E. Redditt, one of two black plainclothesmen assigned to keep King under surveillance before the 1968 murder.

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FBI-ASSASSINATIONS-LETTER; 300

DALLAS (AP) - THE DALLAS BUREAU OF THE FBI SAID FRIDAY THAT A LETTER SUPPOSEDLY WRITTEN BY LEE HARVEY OSWALD TO A ''MR. HUNT'' IS UNDER INVESTIGATION BUT THE BUREAU CANNOT SAY WHO WAS THE INTENDED RECIPIENT.

STATEMENTS BY A DUTCH JOURNALIST IN WASHINGTON QUOTED GEORGE DE MOHRENSCHILDT, A DALLAS COLLEGE PROFESSOR WHO COMMITTED SUICIDE THIS WEEK, AS SAYING HE WAS THE MIDDLEMAN BETWEEN OSWALD AND THE LATE DALLAS MILLIONAIRE OILMAN H. L. HUNT.

PUBLISHED REPORTS HAVE SAID THE LETTER WAS INTENDED FOR H. L. HUNT, BUT HUNT FAMILY SPOKESMEN HAVE DENIED CONSISTENTLY THAT THE CONSERVATIVE MILLIONAIRE EVER KNEW OSWALD.

OSWALD, ACCORDING TO THE WARREN COMMISSION, FIRED THE SHOTS THAT KILLED PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY IN DALLAS ON NOV. 22, 1963.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE FBI SAID THE AGENCY HAS AN ''OPEN MIND'' ABOUT WHETHER THE LETTER WAS REALLY INTENDED FOR HUNT.

HE SAID THE LETTER CAME TO THE FBI ''RECENTLY.''

ANOTHER FBI SOURCE SAID IT WAS ''ASSUMED'' THE LETTER WAS ADDRESSED TO H. L. HUNT ''BECAUSE OF THE WAY IT CAME TO US, BUT IT COULD HAVE BEEN SOME OTHER HUNT.''

THE SOURCE DECLINED TO SAY WHO TURNED THE LETTER OVER TO THE FBI, ''BUT IT CAME TO US IN A ROUNDABOUT WAY.''

A HUNT FAMILY SPOKESMAN SAID ''IT IS HIGHLY PREJUDICIAL TO ASSUME WITH ABSOLUTELY NO SUPPORTIVE EVIDENCE THAT THE MR. HUNT IN THE ALLEGED LETTER REFERS TO THE LATE H. L. HUNT. SUCH UNSUBSTANTIATED SLURS AGAINST A MAN WHO IS DECEASED AND CAN NO LONGER DEFEND HIMSELF ARE SHAMEFUL.''

AS FOR DE MOHRENSCHILDT, AN FBI SPOKESMAN SAID THE BISHOP COLLEGE PROFESSOR WAS WELL KNOWN TO AUTHORITIES DURING THE INVESTIGATION THAT FOLLOWED THE ASSASSINATION.

DE MOHRENSCHILDT, WHO WAS BORN IN THE SOVIET UNION, KNEW THE OSWALDS BEFORE THE ASSASSINATION AND HE AND HIS WIFE SAID THEY BEFRIENDED THE COUPLE BECAUSE OSWALD'S WIFE, MARINA, WAS RUSSIAN.

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Re: JFK Assassination

ARTICLE APPEARED ON PAGE A-1

THE WASHINGTON STAR (GREEN LIN.
11 April 1977

James R. Dickenson

Can assassination questions be allayed?

Like the Lincoln assassination, the assassinations of John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr. promise to be with us forever. The continuation of the House of Representativesinvestigating committee assures that, but if there were no committee something else would keep the controversies alive.

The committee's image has been tarnished by the Keystone Kops quarrel over its original chief counsel but even if it had gotten off to the most harmonious possible start its chances of establishing the truth of the tragedies wouldn't be any greater.

For the hard reality is that most of us have more chance at sainthood than of ever getting an account of the shootings that will satisfy most of us as definitive.

The "leads" that leaked out of the committee recently are more convincing as attempted justification for its existence than as hard evidence.

One is from a woman who worked for Jack Ruby, who killed Lee Harvey Oswald, Kennedy's assassin (in the nature of the controversy this flat statement will be challenged by many) who says that Ruby introduced her to Oswald in his nightclub and said Oswald was associated with the CIA. There is a nurse at the hospital where Kennedy died who contends that there were four or five bullet fragments, too many to be consistent with the Warren Commission's single-bullet theory, removed from John Connally's wound.

There are reports of "crucial" photographs, reportedly confiscated by the FBI, of the grassy knoll next to the Texas Book Depository where Oswald fired his shots. Skeptics of the Warren Commission report contend witnesses heard shots there and that there are photographs of puffs of smoke and gunmen on the knoll.

There are allegations that billionaire H.L. Hunt and other Texas oilmen hired Oswald to kill Kennedy.

The problem is that there are so many ambiguous crucial facts that can be interpreted differently depending on the opinion each individual brings to them.

There is a large body of literature, for instance, on whether or not a single bullet could have passed through Kennedy's body and inflicted the wounds he and Connally suffered. Once you've read it all, however, you don't feel any closer to the truth than when you started.

The basic disagreement is between antithetical views. One is held by those who can't believe that anything so monstrous could be the result of caprice in the form of one disturbed individual. Some find this so disturbing as to be unacceptable.

Many intellectuals, who almost by definition seek an orderly structure of things, are in this group. So are those most suspicious of the "establishment," particularly the CIA and FBI, and believe there is a giant conspiracy on high to eliminate leaders such as King and the Kennedys.

There is some justification for this. John Kennedy's assassination was the opening of a Pandora's Box of more than 10 years of bad times. Subsequent revelations indicated that the FBI and CIA indeed were not above some criminal practices.

"Human ambition, venality, greed, crime — all these we live with and can handle," Garry Willis wrote in his book on Jack Ruby. "No matter how criminal such acts are at least conventional in their sequence of cause and effect . . . There is this much, at least, of reason and light in the darkness of the darkest plot.

"Better that than the vision of total night, of superhuman or subhuman forces revealing themselves, at last, as anti-human, erasing all man's pretension, all reason, order, law."

On the other hand there are those who are skeptical that a conspiracy of such magnitude could be put together and kept secret for so long and/or don't want to believe that powerful members of their government and society could be involved in such a matter.

These people hold that if two persons know about something, given the blabby nature of mankind, the chances of its remaining secret are minimal and that if three know it's sure to be public.

The conspiracy theories seem to run in cycles. The stories that right-wing Texas oil millionaires were behind the Kennedy assassination is the latest. A year and a half ago the leading theory was that the mob was the likely perpetrator since it had both the resources, including ties with the CIA, and the motive because of the loss of gambling casinos and heroin connections in Havana and the hope that a different administration might be more aggressive in ousting Castro.

The reports that Oswald had CIA and FBI ties are as old as the crime itself. He had an address book with the telephone and license plate numbers of an FBI agent, and one Dallas police investigator said he would be "disappointed" if the FBI hadn't tried to recruit Oswald as an informant. Sarah Jane Moore, who tried to shoot Gerald Ford, had been an FBI informant.

The House established its committee arguing correctly that the controversy will continue, as has that over Lincoln's assassination, until the truth is established. Its hope that it or anything else can establish that truth is a true monument to American optimism.

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ON PAGE 2 ASSOCIATED PRESS 16 March 1977

Subpoena Reported For Gang Figure

By George Lardner Jr.
Washington Post Staff Writer

The House Assassinations Committee has secretly subpoenaed crime figure Santo Trafficante Jr. for its first hearing today into the murder of President John F. Kennedy, according to informed sources.

Once the overlord of syndicate gambling in Cuba, Trafficante is the only surviving member of a gangland trio that was secretly enlisted by the Central Intelligence Agency in 1960 in efforts to kill Cuban Premier Fidel Castro.

The other two men, described as Mafia members, were Sam (Momo) Giancana, who was shot to death in his suburban Chicago home two years ago, and his longtime lieutenant, Johnny Rosselli, whose decomposed body was found last summer in an oil drum floating in the backwaters of Miami's Biscayne Bay.

Trafficante is expected to protest the compulsory appearance, and has reportedly hired Boston lawyer F. Lee Bailey to represent him.

"You can't blame him when you remember what happened to the other two," one source said.

Giancana, 65, was murdered as he prepared a midnight snack of sausages and spinach on June 19, 1975, shortly after his release from a hospital and on the heels of preliminary efforts by the Senate Intelligence Committee to contact him in its investigation of CIA assassination plots.

Rosselli, who had been involved in several abortive plots against Castro, testified before the Senate committee five days after Giancana was killed. Thirteen months later, on July 28, 1975, he disappeared from his Plantation, Fla., home. His hacked-up body was found 10 days later in a 55-gallon oil drum weighted with heavy chains.

Both slayings remain unsolved. But long before his murder, Rosselli had been privately claiming to his attorney that Castro had become aware of the CIA-sponsored plots against him and "thereafter employed teams of individuals who were dispatched to the United States for the purpose of assassinating Mr. Kennedy."

Initially introduced to his CIA contacts in late 1960 as "Joe," Trafficante was described as someone who would serve as a courier to Cuba and make arrangements there in the plot to kill Castro. Trafficante had lived in Cuba, and he still had a number of associates there even after Castro seized their gambling enterprises in Havana.

Although he did not testify during the Senate Intelligence Committee's 18-month investigation of CIA misdeeds, Trafficante was questioned secretly last fall by Senate committee investigators in connection with Rosselli's death.

Trafficante reportedly said he dined with Rosselli at a Fort Lauderdale restaurant less than two weeks before Rosselli's disappearance. He was said to have described this and other get-togethers as "friendly social events with no business."

As long ago as March, 1967 Rosselli had expressed his belief in a Cuban connection to the Kennedy assassination to the FBI through his Washington lawyer, Edward P. Morgan. Morgan, in turn, told the FBI that several of his clients who "were on the fringe of the underworld" informed him that Castro had learned of the plotting against him.

The House Assassinations Committee had been talking of staging a hearing on the assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in hopes of keeping that investigation alive at least past March 31, when its current charter expires. The decision to hold a hearing on the JFK assassination apparently reflects new hope within the committee for continuing that inquiry as well.

Committee lawyers have been in contact with an attorney for James Earl Ray, serving a 99-year prison term for King's 1968 murder but Ray is not expected to make any public appearances soon beyond a nationally televised interview last night on the Columbia Broadcasting System's "Who's Who" (WTOP-TV).

Interviewed by correspondent Dan Rather, Ray denied, as he has before, firing the shot that killed King, and insisted that he was not even in the rooming house across the street from King's motel at the time of the murder.

Asked why he was remaining silent if someone else did it, rather than telling all, Ray said he feared that whatever he said might be turned against him. "I think a lot of people have a sort of a Pollyanna view of the legal system," he said.

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House Assassinations

NEW YORK TIMES DATE 17 MAR 77 PAGE 23

THE NEW YORK TIMES, T

Underworld Figure Refuses to Talk Before House Assasination Panel

WASHINGTON, March 16 (UPI)—Santo Trafficante Jr., boss of the Mafia syndicate smuggling in Cuba, called a contempt motion today by refusing to answer any questions from a House Committee about the assassination of President Kennedy or plots to kill Premier Fidel Castro of Cuba.

Mr. Trafficante is the only survivor among three underworld figures described in earlier Congressional testimony as being enlisted by the Central Intelligence Agency in 1960 to kill the Cuban Premier. The two others were killed and their murders remain unsolved.

Asked if he had been threatened concerning his appearance, Mr. Trafficante refused to reply, citing constitutional protection.

"I refuse to answer on my constitutional rights," the gray-haired Tampa resident responded to 15 questions from the lawyer heading the House Assassinations Committee, which is investigating the deaths of President Kennedy and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Finally, Representative Louis Stokes, Democrat of Ohio, chairman of the committee, reminded Mr. Trafficante that he was vulnerable to charges of Congressional citations for refusing to respond. He was told him he could [illegible] and be recalled later.

Mr. Trafficante [illegible] Giancana and John Rosselli [illegible] mentioned in previous testimony as having been approached by the C.I.A. in the 1960's to develop plans to kill Mr. Castro. The committee is trying to find out if there was any connection between the Castro plot and the Kennedy assassination.

Mr. Giancana was shot in his suburban Chicago home in 1975 shortly after Senate investigators tried to question him about the plot. Mr. Rosselli was found dead in an oil drum in Biscayne Bay near Miami in 1975 after testifying before a Senate committee.

Questions asked by committee counsel, Richard A. Sprague, that Mr. Trafficante refused to answer included the following:

¶Had he ever been connected with the C.I.A. or any other Federal agency?

¶Did he know Mr. Rosselli or Mr. Giancana?

¶Did he know Robert Maheu, a former agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and a fringe associate of Howard R. Hughes who also testified that he had been recruited by the C.I.A. to plot Mr. Castro's death?

¶Did he have advance information that President Kennedy would be assassinated? Did he "advise other people of the assassination" before it happened?

¶Did he know Jack L. Ruby, who killed Lee Harvey Oswald after Mr. Oswald was charged with the Kennedy murder? Was he related by [illegible] both imprisoned in Cuba?

¶Did he ever meet Cuban representatives to discuss the assassination of various world leaders, including Castro?

Mr. Trafficante, who was jailed in Cuba after Mr. Castro seized his Havana gambling enterprises, was directed by a committee counsel to produce items of the [illegible]

Santo Trafficante Jr. waiting to appear before the House assassinations committee yesterday.

20695

AM-ASSASSINATE-FINDINGS 3-29

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- HERE ARE THE MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE HOUSE ASSASSINATION COMMITTEE'S FIRST REPORT THIS YEAR ON ITS INVESTIGATION OF THE KILLINGS OF JOHN F. KENNEDY AND MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

-- THE COMMITTEE HAS "UNCORROBORATED INFORMATION" THAT LEE HARVEY OSWALD, KENNEDY'S KILLER, AND JACK RUBY, OSWALD'S KILLER, KNEW EACH OTHER BEFORE THE JFK KILLING. THE WARREN COMMISSION CONCLUDED THEY DID NOT KNOW EACH OTHER.

-- IT HAS "SEVERAL NEW LEADS" THAT OSWALD WAS "ASSOCIATED WITH CIA-SUPPORTED ANTI-CASTRO GROUPS AND WHICH SUGGEST THAT HIS REPORTED PRO-CASTRO ACTIVITIES AND POSSIBLY HIS ALLEGED TRIP TO MEXICO CITY MAY HAVE BEEN DELIBERATELY DESIGNED TO MASK THOSE ASSOCIATIONS."

-- "DOCUMENTS IN THE POSSESSION OF THE FBI, SOME OF WHICH ARE IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN, INDICATE THAT THE BUREAU DESTROYED RELEVANT EVIDENCE AND PROFFERED MISLEADING STATEMENTS TO THE WARREN COMMISSION."

-- "THE MOST IMPORTANT CURRENT DEVELOPMENT IN THE KING INVESTIGATION IS THE WILLINGNESS OF JAMES EARL RAY ... TO TALK TO THE COMMITTEE," CONCERNING HIS CONVICTION ON CHARGES OF KILLING KING.

-- A NOW-DECEASED INFORMANT OF THE ALL-BLACK POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORTED HE OVERHEARD "MEMBERS OF THE ORGANIZATION" DISCUSS THE NEED TO KILL KING AND THE PANEL SAID THE COMMITTEE IS ACTIVELY INVESTIGATING THIS AND OTHER CONSPIRACY-RELATED LEADS.

-- THE PANEL SAID IT WANTS MORE INFORMATION ON HOW RAY GOT BETWEEN $7,000 AND $8,500 FOR HIS TRIPS ABROAD IN THE TWO MONTHS AFTER THE KING KILLING AND THE TIME HE WAS APPREHENDED.

-- IT WILL INVESTIGATE PUBLISHED REPORTS A MEMBER OF RAY'S FAMILY MAY HAVE INFORMATION ABOUT RAY'S CLAIM HE HAD BEEN ASSOCIATE IN MEMPHIS AT THE TIME OF THE KING KILLING.

-- EXTENSIVE BALLISTIC TESTS WILL BE MADE OF THE RIFLE THAT RAY IS SAID TO HAVE USED TO KILL KING.

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20751

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THE WASHINGTON POST
29 March 1977

Assassinations Probe Nearing Showdown; Counsel Under Fire

By George Lardner Jr.
Washington Post Staff Writer

The House Rules Committee cleared the way yesterday for a showdown over the House assassinations inquiry amid a sudden outburst of demands for the ouster of chief counsel Richard A. Sprague.

"I think this resolution is in serious trouble on the House floor," Rep. Morgan Murphy (D-Ill) warned members of the Assassinations Committee at a hearing before the Rules Committee.

Although Speaker Thomas P. (Tip) O'Neill has promised "wholehearted support" for keeping the investigations alive, Murphy said advocates of the inquiry were seriously underestimating "the feelings of the members of the House" about Sprague.

"I think you ought to get your own man in there," Murphy warned the newly installed Assassinations Committee chairman, Louis Stokes (D-Ohio). "What he can do to Henry, he can do to you."

Rep. Henry B. Gonzalez (D-Tex.), the former chairman whom Murphy was talking about, underscored the mood in a bitter speech on the House floor about how he unsuccessfully tried to fire Sprague last month. He said he was deserted by House Democratic leaders and committee colleagues, and blamed it at least partly on racial discrimination.

"I think I have been treated shabbily," Gonzalez declared. "I think that if my name were Jones or O'Brien or Rosenthal or George Washington Carver or Martin Luther King, I would not have been treated so shabbily."

The Texas Democrat held the floor for more than an hour with a chapter-and-verse recitation of his efforts to restore order to the committee's finances.

The day after he ordered Sprague's dismissal, Gonzalez said, Majority Leader Jim Wright (Tex.) assured him, "'Well, fella, we're with you. You're right.'"

"I don't know how anybody could interpret that," Gonzalez said. "I took it as support." But it soon disappeared when the rest of the committee remained solidly behind Sprague. Gonzalez quit the chairmanship and the committee on March 8.

With heavy sarcasm, Gonzalez at various points imitated the voices of Reps. Shirley Chisholm (D-N.Y.) and Richardson Preyer (D-N.C.) speaking at a Rules Committee hearing in January, described Rep. Richard Bolling (D-Mo.) as "the great rajah of the Rules Committee," and called Del. Walter E. Fauntroy (D-D.C.) "the vizier of Washington."

The Rules Committee voted 9 to 4 to set up a floor vote Wednesday on continuing the investigations into the murders of President Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr. for the remainder of the 95th Congress. Two other Rules Committee members, Murphy and Rep. John Young (D-Tex.), voted "present"

Appointed chairman March 8, Stokes said he inherited a committee staff that was marking time with "almost no stationery, almost no supplies" and was "unable to travel" or even make a long-distance phone call. He strongly urged keeping the investigations going past their current March 31 expiration date and submitted a 14-page report indicating some of the "leads" the committee is pursuing.

The information, however, smacked of twice-told tales. In one passage reminiscent of former New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison's celebrated investigation, the committee said it is "actively pursuing several new leads which indicate that Lee Harvey Oswald was associated with CIA-supported anti-Castro groups".

Raising the persistent specter of a "false Oswald," the committee said those same "leads" also "suggest" that Oswald's "reported pro-Castro activities" and his "alleged" trip to Mexico City might have been deliberately designed to mask his CIA-supported anti-Castro associations.

Stokes insisted at yesterday's hearing that the inquiry was running smoothly now with Gonzalez gone. The new chairman maintained that Sprague had satisfactorily countered all the charges against him at a secret committee meeting recently.

Murphy noted that Gonzalez was not present when the questioning of Sprague was conducted. "We're taking Sprague's word over Gonzalez' word, as I understand it," Murphy said. Citing Gonzalez' speech on the House floor earlier in the afternoon, Murphy said he was especially concerned about a charge that Sprague had forbidden committee staffers to furnish payroll information to committee members.

Stokes said that Sprague "has offered a number of times to step aside if it would be of assistance to the committee," but the committee remains solidly behind him.

"I think you ought to accept that offer," Murphy said.

Rep. Joe Moakley (D-Mass.) said he has been supporting the investigation for months, but he agreed that the issue in the minds of most House members is "not whether the assassinations committee ought to be reconstituted. It's whether Mr. Sprague should be retained as chief counsel."

Rep. Bolling, who will serve as floor manager for the Wednesday resolution to keep the committee alive, told a reporter that he thinks the odds still favor its passage, but added: "It's awfully close. It'll probably change three times before Wednesday."

20759

WASHINGTON STAR DATE 29 MAR 77 Page 3

Mary McGrory

The Plot That Ousted Chairman Gonzalez

We may or may not find out whether Lee Harvey Oswald and James Earl Ray acted alone. The storm-tossed House Select Committee on Assassinations promises it has leads which could prove they did not.

The only thing that the committee has produced so far is evidence that its erstwhile chairman, Henry Gonzalez of Texas, was the victim of a plot.

Gonzalez, a large, swarthy, assertive man wearing a rust-color corduroy suit, took the floor to describe the conspiracy. He was forced off the committee after he tried to fire its high-powered chief counsel, Richard Sprague.

During his speech, Gonzalez reinforced the impression long since formed of him — that he is not what you would call a judicious man. He also demonstrated that he is no diplomat. He mimicked and mocked his colleagues, Rep. Shirley Chisholm of New York and D.C. Delegate Walter Fauntroy.

He charged House Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill Jr., who was in his small, uncomfortable audience, with failing him in his hour of need, when Gonzales retreated to Texas to lick his wounds — and a high fever.

"I never even got a get-well card," Gonzalez cried.

NOR WAS HE ABLE to reach his leader, although O'Neill had taken his side and had instructed Majority Leader Jim Wright of Texas to be the mediator.

Gonzalez at length resigned from the committee. Members were shocked. It wasn't exactly as if the Senate Watergate Committee had chosen Sam Dash over Sam Ervin, but it was, for many, a horrendous precedent.

A delegation of members went to the speaker during this period when the committee shuddered and cracked under the Sprague-Gonzales hostilities, and persuaded him of its right to life. Richardson Preyer of North Carolina found O'Neill particularly susceptible to the suggestion that the committee had reason to believe that Lee Harvey Oswald, the Kennedy killer, and Jack Ruby had known each other.

They further pointed out that 80 percent of the American people, according to the Gallup Poll, were unpersuaded by the findings of the Warren Commission. O'Neill is hung up on "credibility" of government this session — it was the reason he pushed so hard for the new code of ethics that the House reluctantly accepted.

POLITICALLY, he did not want committee members, and especially the vociferous chief counsel, running around the country crying that they had been deprived of funds on the brink of breakthrough.

With his blessing, the Assassinations Committee was "reconstituted." The budget was slashed. The reprehensible electronic devices announced by the chief counsel were banished. The committee regrouped under the leadership of Rep. Louis Stokes, D-Ohio.

Preyer, the nearest thing to an elder statesman that the House can boast, thinks that both the money-savers and the civil libertarians have been assuaged, and that the inquiry can now go forward along orderly and productive lines.

Still, questions remain, questions beyond the assassinations themselves, that is. Martin Luther King Sr. said Congress did not want to know who killed his son, and that the investigation would be "a waste of taxpayers' money."

The blacks have never been satisfied that J. Edgar Hoover, whose hatred of Martin Luther King Jr. has been amply documented, did everything he could to probe out the mysterious background of James Earl Ray, who, although apparently penniless, took frequent foreign trips, with some sophisticated juggling of passports.

AT THE RULES Committee, where Stokes went to plead for a reprieve for the panel, the questions were not about the assassinations. They were about the chief counsel, Richard Sprague.

Sprague is obviously a tiger in the garden of the House.

Why was Sprague retained, Stokes was repeatedly asked by hostile members? Because, said Stokes, using the word "dedication" a little excessively, Gonzalez' charges against him had been disproved.

And, besides, if Sprague were fired, half or even more of the staff would clear out, too, despite their indescribable "dedication." They would decamp in protest of the unjust and unfair accusations which Gonzalez had brought against Sprague.

Stokes tried to tell the committee that he was sure he could tame the tiger. They weren't so sure. It reminded as if Sprague had barricaded himself into the Capitol and was holding the committee hostage.

Gonzalez had unwittingly done as much as he could to preserve the committee. While members don't like to see a colleague passed over for an overbearing staff member, they also don't admire Gonzalez, who made the House a laughingstock by his inability to housebreak his tiger-counsel.

The House Select Committee on Assassinations, inept and imperiled as it is, represents all the same — as Norman Mailer, an unexpected ally, said last week — the only game in town. The last chance to find out if Oswald and Ray acted alone when they fired those shots from which the country has just begun to recover.

20741

Washington Post
30 MAR 77

30 MAR 77

[redacted]

[redacted]

Figure In JFK Assassination Probe Dies in Florida, an Apparent Suicide

PALM BEACH, Fla., March 29 (AP) A witness reportedly sought by the House Assassinations Committee in its investigation of President Kennedy's assassination was found dead today of what police said appeared to be a self-inflicted shotgun wound in the head.

The victim, George de Mohrenschildt of Dallas, Tex., a geologist who taught briefly at Bishop College, reportedly had been an acquaintance of Lee Harvey Oswald and his wife Marina.

Palm Beach County Sheriff's Lt. Richard Sheets said there was "no reason to suspect anything other than suicide but the investigation is continuing." But the final official ruling will be made [illegible] autopsy Wednesday.

The body of de Mohrenschildt, 65, was found by his daughter Alexandra, 33, in the guest room of a palatial beachside home here. He and his daughter had arived there from where they were visiting relatives, Sheets said.

"At the time of the shooting, he was alone in the house except for two maids who said they did not hear the shot," Sheets said. No suicide note was found.

Willem Oltmans, a Dutch journalist who has been interviewed by [illegible] assination committee investigators, has said publicly that the Russian-born de Mohrenschildt told him in an interview he felt some responsibility for Kennedy's slayings.

An assassination panel source said the investigators had only recently located de Mohrenschildt in Florida.

20707

CIA Weighed Using JFK's Assassin

9/30/76
10/1/76

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Contrary to sworn testimony, the CIA once considered using presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald as a source of intelligence information about the Soviet Union, according to a newly released CIA document.

In sworn testimony before the Warren Commission, former CIA Director Richard Helms said the agency never had "or even contemplated" any contacts with Oswald.

The newly released document, written by an unidentified CIA officer three days after President John F. Kennedy was killed in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963, says that "we showed intelligence interest" in Oswald and "discussed . . . the laying on of interviews."

The unidentified officer added that "I do not know what action developed thereafter."

The memo was among hundreds of pages of documents from the CIA's file on Lee Harvey Oswald. The material was released to The Associated Press Thursday under the Freedom of Information Act.

A second document reveals that former CIA Director Allen Dulles, while serving as a member of the Warren Commission, privately counseled CIA officials on the best way to answer questions from the commission about allegations that Oswald was a CIA agent.

Dulles "thought language which made it clear that Lee Harvey Oswald was never an employe or agent of CIA would suffice," an unidentified CIA officer wrote Helms in April 1964.

"I agree with him that a carefully phrased denial of the charges of involvement with Oswald seemed most appropriate," the unidentified officer added.

When he appeared before the commission in May 1964, Helms, then head of the agency's clandestine services, testified under oath that "There is no material in the Central Intelligence Agency, either in the records or in the mind of any of the individuals that there was any contact had or even contemplated with" Oswald.

The Nov. 25, 1963, memo explains that the agency's interest in Oswald as a potential intelligence source was due to his "unusual behavior in the U.S.S.R.," to which he had defected in 1959.

"We were particularly interested in the (deleted) Oswald might provide on the Minsk factory in which he had been employed, on certain sections of the city itself, and of course we thought that any (deleted) that might help develop (deleted) personality dossiers," the memo states.

The allegations that Oswald was a CIA agent were first made by [illegible]er, Marguerite, and attorney Mark Lane. Another document released by the agency shows that the CIA believed such allegations were "elements of a world-wide, Soviet-sponsored propaganda and mis-information program."

20039

2/5/77

Critics of Warren Report Objects of CIA Campaign

Associated Press

The Central Intelligence Agency directed its offices around the world in 1967 "to employ propaganda assets" to counter doubts raised by critics of the Warren Commission's investigation into the assassination of President Kennedy.

The propaganda campaign was to be waged in part by passing unclassified information about the assassination to CIA "assets" who could use the material in writing "book reviews and feature articles" that would "answer and refute the attacks of the critics," according to a newly released CIA document.

The document said the aim was "to provide material for countering and discrediting the claims of the conspiracy theorists, so as to inhibit the circulation of such claims in other countries."

The document was among some 850 pages of material released yesterday by the CIA under the Freedom of Information Act.

The documents show that the CIA examined copies of almost all books about the November, 1963, assassination, including one by then Congressman Gerald R. Ford. A CIA officer called Ford's book "a rehash of the Oswald case" and criticized its "loose" writing.

Ford was a member of the Warren Commission which concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald was solely responsible for the assassination. Ford quoted extensively from secret sessions of the commission in his book, "Portrait of an Assassin," which agreed with the commission's finding.

The 1967 dispatch to "chiefs, certain stations and bases" says that the rash of books and articles criticizing the Warren Commission's finding "is a matter of concern to the U.S. government, including our organization."

"Efforts to impugn [the] rectitude and wisdom [of commission members and staff] tend to cast doubt on the whole leadership of American society," the memo said.

"Moreover, there seems to be an increasing tendency to hint that President Johnson, himself, as the one person who might be said to have benefited, was in some way responsible for the assassination.

"Innuendo of such seriousness affects not only the individuals concerned, but also the whole reputation of the American government."

In using propaganda assets to refute these charges, the dispatch said, "our play should point out as applicable, that the critics are (1) wedded to theories adopted before the evidence was in, (2) politically interested, (3) financially interested, (4) hasty and inaccurate in their research, or (5) infatuated with their own theories."

2EC39

House Assassinations

NEW YORK TIMES DATE 31 MAR 77 PAGE 1

HOUSE VOTES TO KEEP ASSASSINATION PANEL

After Sprague Quits as Staff Chief, Inquiry Is Extended Through '78

By RICHARD L. MADDEN

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, March 30—The House of Representatives voted today to keep its Select Committee on Assassinations in existence through next year. The vote was taken after the committee's chief counsel, Richard A. Sprague, resigned.

The vote, which was 230 to 181, assures that the embattled committee, which was established last September, will be able to pursue its investigations of the assassinations of President Kennedy and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. throughout the term of the current 95th Congress.

The 12-member committee, which received an interim extension by the House last Feb. 2, would have gone out of business tomorrow if the House had not preserved it.

In Florida, sources familiar with the apparent suicide of George de Mohrenschildt, whose testimony the committee had been seeking, said today that he might once have been a Central Intelligence Agency operative and a confidant of Lee Harvey Oswald. [Page A14.]

Members of the committee and other representatives acknowledged that the

Continued on Page A12, Col. 1

resignation of Mr. Sprague, which was announced this morning before the House convened, had made it easier to secure enough votes to reconstitute the committee.

Resignation 'Meant 40 Votes'

"With Sprague resigning, they claim it means 40 more votes," the Speaker of the House, Thomas P. O'Neill Jr., Democrat of Massachusetts, said before the vote.

The former chairman of the committee, Representative Henry B. Gonzalez, Democrat of Texas, tried to dismiss Mr. Sprague as chief counsel and staff director last month on the ground of alleged

[illegible] But the 11 other members of the committee backed Mr. Sprague, and Mr. Gonzalez resigned his post earlier this month.

In the last two days, Mr. Gonzalez had made speeches on the House floor accusing Mr. Sprague of, among other things, interfering with his work as chairman, insubordination and creating disharmony.

Last night several members of the committee gathered in the office of Representative Louis Stokes, Democrat of Ohio, who is the new committee chairman, and concluded, according to one participant, that they were about 25 votes short of the majority needed to reconstitute the committee.

'Facts of Life' Discussed

A number of representatives had told committee members that the continued presence of Mr. Sprague on the committee would lead them to vote against continuing the committee.

The committee members discussed what Representative Robert W. Edgar, Democrat of Pennsylvania, called "the facts of life" with Mr. Sprague, who then went to an anteroom and dictated a letter to the committee. The letter said:

"I am hereby submitting my resignation effective immediately, as chief counsel and staff director of the House Select Committee on Assassinations.

"I do so with the hope that the Congress can now proceed with the challenge of seeing that these investigations are pursued promptly."

Mr. Sprague, 51 years old, who had gained a reputation as an aggressive prosecutor in Pennsylvania before joining the committee late last year, left town after resigning, according to a committee spokesman.

Today's events marked another turning point in the brief, turbulent history of the committee, which was created last year with only 65 dissenting votes.

Before the public dispute arose between Mr. Gonzalez and Mr. Sprague, the chief counsel had angered some representatives by requesting a budget of $13 million to conduct the investigations over a two-year period. The committee later trimmed that budget request to $2.8 million for the first year, with the expectation that a similar amount would be sought next year.

Members of the committee said that Mr. Sprague had resigned voluntarily and that the committee met this morning to accept his resignation "with regret."

The committee members unanimously praised Mr. Sprague for his work and made public transcripts of a closed meeting they held earlier this month with Mr. Sprague. The representatives said that the transcripts refuted all the criticism that had been made against Mr. Sprague by Mr. Gonzalez and in news accounts.

Pickle Calls Inquiry 'Sick Cat'

Walter E. Fauntroy, Democrat, delegate from the District of Columbia, said that allegations against Mr. Sprague had "absolutely no basis in fact" and added that the counsel's resignation to allow the investigations to continue "in my judgment merits the Congressional Medal of Honor."

Representative Samuel L. Devine, Republican of Ohio, said that other members of the House had told committee members: "If you get rid of that Sprague, we'll go with you. That's what it's all about."

In the final hours of debate later on the House floor, several representatives criticized the committee's work. Representative J. J. Pickle, Democrat of Texas, called the investigations "a sick cat."

But supporters of the committee contended that the investigators should be allowed to try to resolve unanswered questions about the Kennedy and King assassinations. Committee members also contended that they were pursuing "new leads," but did not give details.

The House, however, rejected, 226 to 185, an effort to get it to go into a rare secret session to hear evidence the committee has gathered. Also, the House voted, 223 to 195, to delete the committee's request for authority to intervene in lawsuits or to seek court actions to seek information.

20740

WASHINGTON STAR (GREEN LINE)
30 MARCH 1977

PAGE A-8

Was He Responsible for Oswald's Act?

The de Mohrenschildt-JFK Enigma

By Jeremiah O'Leary
Washington Star Staff Writer

When George de Mohrenschildt disappeared in Brussels last March 7, he could have been tabbed either as just another fruitcake or someone out to make a buck on his acquaintance with Lee and Marina Oswald.

Or, just possibly, he could have been the man responsible for Oswald's behavior when President John F. Kennedy was shot to death in 1963 as he reportedly acknowledged in the manuscript of a book he had written.

But today, this much is certain about the 65-year-old Russian-born emigre:

- He is now in a Palm Beach, Fla., morgue, dead of an apparently self-inflicted shotgun wound.
- He was of sufficient interest to the House Committee on Assassinations that one of its investigators was in Palm Beach on Tuesday seeking to interview him when the ostensible suicide occurred.
- He is once again of considerable interest to the FBI, which devoted a major portion of Book 9 of the Warren Commission Report to de Mohrenschildt.

If de Mohrenschildt had a motive for committing suicide in his daughter's house, it is not known. Nor is it known why he was negotiating with Dutch publishers to sell his book about the Kennedy case when he disappeared in the Belgian capital shortly after meeting a Soviet diplomat.

He has been categorized as either an opportunist or as a man with a history of mental illness who was subject to wild changes of mood. But he cannot be ignored so long as the House investigative panel and the FBI are genuinely interested in finding out what role, if any, de Mohrenschildt played in the killing of President Kennedy in a Dallas motorcade on Nov. 22, 1963.

IT HAS LONG BEEN known that de Mohrenschildt, as part of the Dallas Russian-speaking community, was close to Lee Harvey Oswald and his Russian wife, Marina. The FBI says it checked him out every way from Sunday in the days and weeks after the presidential assassination. He was a witness before the Warren Commission, and what he said then can be found in 118 pages of that bulky report.

What is not known is what his motive was for writing the manuscript of a book entitled "I'm a Patsy, I'm a Patsy" and claiming that it is the story of how he was responsible for Oswald's assassination of Kennedy.

The mysterious recent history of de Mohrenschildt is largely attributable to a Dutch journalist named Willem Oltmans, who was interviewed by The Washington Star on March 18. Oltmans, who had been cultivating de Mohrenschildt as a news source and a friend for the past 10 years, is the man who told the House Assassinations Committee earlier this month about de Mohrenschildt's decision to tell his version of the Kennedy murder.

It was this appearance before committee staffers by Oltmans on March 11 that prompted the panel to send investigator Gaetan Fonzi to Palm Beach last Monday to try to question de Mohrenschildt. According to Oltmans, this is the erratic story of the White Russian college professor's last weeks of life:

Oltmans had known de Mohrenschildt for a decade in periodic visits to Dallas. He knew de Mohrenschildt to be an emigre Russian count, a petroleum engineer, a teacher of French at Bishop College and as a close friend of the Oswalds. Oltmans fell into the habit of visiting George and Jeanne de Mohrenschildt two or three times a year.

IN JANUARY 1976, de Mohrenschildt wrote Oltmans that he was preparing a book and sent several pages to the Dutch reporter for consideration. By June the book was completed, but Jeanne de Mohrenschildt told Oltmans she was upset when she read it. She told her husband he would go to jail if it was published because it was about the assassination of Kennedy and mentioned names of CIA and FBI agents throughout.

Last November, Oltmans went to Dallas and called de Mohrenschildt, only to be told by his wife that he had been in a hospital for several months. Oltmans said he called de Mohrenschildt's lawyer, Pat S. Russell, and was told de Mohrenschildt was in a mental hospital suffering from a persecution complex and undergoing heavy shock treatments.

According to Oltmans, the manuscript of the book is in custody of Russell. The Dallas attorney could not be reached last night for comment, but Oltmans said he was told Russell has the book in his office files. He reportedly has not read the manuscript.

Oltmans went back to Dallas on Feb. 23, 1977, and had lunch with de Mohrenschildt, who was now back at work. The journalist said this exchange took place in the Bishop College library:

De Mohrenschildt: "How would it hit the media if I came out and said I felt responsible for Oswald's behavior?"

Oltmans: "You mean what Oswald did? Shot or not shot, he was involved in the shooting. You have links here to the shooting of the president of the United States."

DE MOHRENSCHILDT: "I realize that and I don't want to incriminate myself directly, but I am convinced that what Oswald finally set up we completely agreed upon."

Oltmans: "But you were in Haiti on the day of the assassination."

De Mohrenschildt: "Yes."

Oltmans said de Mohrenschildt "was a guy very cleverly saying 'I knew exactly what Oswald was going to do and I have proof of it.'"

Oltmans said he asked de Mohrenschildt if he was ready to make a statement. He said the professor replied, "Yes, but never in America. I am being followed. I find my house all the time searched. So I am scared to death. I first must get out of the country."

Oltmans said he quickly called his Dutch television superior and was told to bring de Mohrenschildt to Holland. As Oltmans tells it, de Mohrenschildt had several changes of mind but finally said he was ready to go. Oltmans said they drove to Houston, left de Mohrenschildt's car there with a man named David Russell and eventually arrived in Amsterdam on March 3. There they began a round of talks with Dutch television and publishing executives, meanwhile checking with attorney Russell in Dallas to be sure the manuscript was still in his office.

continued

20757

ON MARCH 5, OLTMANS and de Mohrenschildt drove to Brussels to meet a friend of the Dutch reporter, a Soviet diplomat he identified only as "Kuznetzov." The three men chatted at the newstand of the Hotel Metropole and de Mohrenschildt said he would go for a walk before lunch. "He never returned from that walk," said Oltmans.

On March 7, back in Holland, de Mohrenschildt's disappearance was reported to the U.S. Embassy in the Hague. Oltmans said the official receiving the report was Jacob Gillespie, a press officer at the embassy. There is no record that the missing report was relayed to the State Department in Washington.

Oltmans said he wasn't worried. He got a call from a man in Brussels who identified himself as "Genta," and he said de Mohrenschildt had departed for the United States. But Oltmans said de Mohrenschildt left behind all his belongings except his briefcase — his pipe, his luggage and his dirty raincoat. De Mohrenschildt took Oltmans' clean new raincoat instead. Oltmans said he put all of de Mohrenschildt's possessions in an Amsterdam bank and sent the receipt to attorney Russell in Dallas.

Yesterday in Palm Springs, Fla., a police official said authorities there were also holding "certain personal papers" belonging to de Mohrenschildt, United Press International reported. The official declined to say if those papers were related to the Kennedy assassination.

In early March, Oltmans came to Washington, called the committee about the whole affair and told essentially this story to deputy counsel Robert Tanenbaum and three other investigators. Oltmans' view of de Mohrenschildt's role in the assassination, if there is one, is that de Mohrenschildt didn't figure in the slaying but "that together they cooked it up."

De Mohrenschildt, according to Oltmans, could have been kidnaped, or have had another "crazy attack" or have gone to the Soviet Union. None of those things happened, but Oltmans did have a clue to the way de Mohrenschildt died even before the man shot himself.

Oltmans said "He told me in Europe: 'Look, I'll be discharged at Bishop College in June. I'm 65. My wife ran away. (They reportedly are now divorced.) I'm at the end of the line.' And one day he came into my room and said, 'Let's face it. I only made up the story (about Oswald) because everybody makes a million dollars off the Kennedy assassination, and I haven't made anything. So now it's my time. So now you and I know that.'"

THE FBI SAYS IT does not know what to make of de Mohrenschildt's strange journey or of his apparent suicide. The Warren Commission concluded that he did not have any connection with Kennedy's death even though he knew the Oswalds well and probably helped them with financial and family problems. Even so, the House committee wanted to question de Mohrenschildt, and Fonzi just missed him.

He went to the house where de Mohrenschildt was staying at noon Tuesday and was told to return that evening because the man was not home. In the afternoon, de Mohrenschildt apparently put a shotgun in his mouth and pulled the trigger.

No note was found. If there is an answer to George de Mohrenschildt's troubled life, it may lie in the book he has written and that lawyer Russell purportedly has filed away in Dallas: "I'm a Patsy, I'm a Patsy."

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE 2.

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS
31 MARCH 1977

Hint Dead JFK Witness Was in CIA

Palm Beach, Fla. (Combined Dispatches) — A man who apparently committed suicide when he learned that his testimony was wanted concerning President Kennedy's assassination was once a CIA operative and claimed to be a confidant of Lee Harvey Oswald sources said yesterday.

The body of the man, George de Mohrenschildt, 65, a Russian-born French teacher, was found Tuesday afternoon in a study at the waterfront mansion of Mrs. Charles Tilton 3d. He had been a guest of Mrs. Tilton, as was his 33 year-old daughter, who found the body after returning from a shopping trip.

De Mohrenschildt apparently committed suicide, using a shotgun, after learning that Gaeton Fonzi, an investigator for the House Assassinations Committee, was seeking him to testify before the panel about his connections with Oswald, who was Kennedy's sole assassin, according to Warren Commission findings.

A source who had investigatee the assassination of Kennedy for three years told United Press International that de Mohrenschildt had served as a CIA agent in Haiti in 1963, the year of Kennedy's death.

De Mohrenschildt, who held degrees in international commerce, petroleum geology and engineering, had denied in lengthy testimony before the Warren Commission that he had ever been an agent of any government. He had said that his wide travels on several continents were strictly related to private business. However, the Warren Commission also took off-the-record testimony from de Mohrenschildt that has never been made public.

The Palm Beach County sheriff's office withheld an official ruling on de Mohrenschildt's death, pending results of an autopsy. But Lt. Richard Sheets said there was "no reason to suspect anything other than suicide."

In Washington, Rep. Richardson Preyer (D-N.C.), a committee member who was headed the Kennedy assassination inquiry, said yesterday that de Mohrenschildt, a professor of French at Bishop College in Dallas, was considered "a crucial witness" in the committee's investigation. Preyer told reporters that the committee would make an effort to subpena any papers in de Mohrenschildt's Beach mansion where he died.

But a few hours ater Preyer's statement, Rep. Eldon Rudd (R-Ariz.), in a House speech, attacked de Mohrenschildt's credibility, noting that the Russian emigre had spent almost two months in the psychiatric wing of Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas last winter, and had talked about his involvement with Oswald, to a Dutch reporter after leaving the hospital.

Preyer, a former judge, said that he was aware of de Mohrenschildts "history of mental illness, but that nevertheless the professor had made some direct contact with Oswald before the assassination. The committee learned of de Mohrenschildts' supposedly new information after a story appeared recently in the Dallas Morning News.

In 964, the Warren Commission investigated de Mohrenschildt, a supposed descendant of Russian nobility, because he had known Oswald in Dallas. But the commission concluded that de Mohrenschildt had known nothing about the Nov. 2, 29163, laying of Kennedy.

However, de Mohrenschildt told the Dutch reporter recently that he might have been "responsible" for Oswald's behavior before the assassination. De Mohrenschildt said that he had had advance knowledge of the murder but gave no specifics.

The Warren Commission said that de Mohrenschildt had left the Soviet Union in 19, later receiving a degree from the University of Texas in petroleum geology.

20755

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE A-14

NEW YORK TIMES
31 MARCH 1977

Professor, 65, Who Killed Himself, May Have Been Oswald Confidant

PALM BEACH, Fla., March 30 (UPI)—A Russian-born professor who committed suicide, apparently when he learned that a House investigating committee wanted his testimony concerning President Kennedy's assassination, may once have been an operative for the Central Intelligence Agency, and a confidant of Lee Harvey Oswald, sources familiar with the case said today.

The body of George de Mohrenschildt, 65 years old, was found yesterday in a second-floor study of a Palm Beach waterfront mansion by his daughter, Alexandra, 33, who had just returned from a shopping trip.

His death came shortly after he learned that an investigator for the House assassinations committee was seeking him to testify before the committee about his connections with Mr. Oswald, Mr. Kennedy's assassin.

The timing of Mr. de Mohrenschmidt's death immediately became a factor in the House committee's request to extend its investigations of political assassinations. Representative Richardson Preyer, Democrat of North Carolina, said the committee had linked Mr. de Mohrenschildt to "new evidence" that indicated "de Mohrenschildt may have been closer to Lee Harvey Oswald than appeared on the surface."

Called C.I.A. Agent

A source who investigated the Kennedy assassination for three years asserted that Mr. de Mohrenschildt, who held degrees in international commerce, petroleum geology and engineering, was serving as a C.I.A. agent in Haiti in 1963, the year that Mr. Kennedy was killed in Dallas.

Mr. de Mohrenschildt denied in published testimony before the Federal commission that investigated the Kennedy death that he had never been an agent of any government. he said his wide travels on several continents were solely business-connected. However, the commission, headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren, also took off-the-record testimony from him that has never been made public.

Mr. de Mohrenschildt talked last month in Dallas with a Dutch journalist, Wilhelm Oltmans, who told the House Assassination committee that in advance that Oswald was going to do.

According to the Warren Commission report, published in October 1964, Mr. de Mohrenschildt and his wife met Oswald and his wife Marina in dallas in 1962.

Mr. Preyer said Mr. de Mohrenschildt "was a crucial witness for us, based on the new information he had." "He was intimately involved with Oswald," he added.

Convinced of Suicide

The Palm Beach County sheriff's office withheld an official ruling on Mr de Mohrenschildt's death until results of an autopsy and further investigation were made public But Lieut Richard Sheets said there was "no reason to suspect anything other than suicide."

Mr. de Mohrenschildt, who was a French-language teacher at Bishop College in Dallas at the time of his death, arrived from Brussels a week ago with his daughter to visit Mrs Charles Tilton 3d.

Mrs. Tilton owns the three-story home on an estate alongside the Intracoastal Waterway, seven miles south of Palm Beach. Mrs. Hilton is the former Nancy Pierson Sands.

Sheriff Richard Sadle said that Gaeton J. Fonzi, an investigator for the House assassinations committee, went to the Hilton estate about noon yesterday and left word that he would return at 8:30 P.M. to see Mr de Mohrenschildt. The sheriff said no suicide note had been found.

20756

RADIO TV REPORTS, INC.

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FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF [redacted]

PROGRAM Good Morning America

STATION WNAL TV
ABC Network

DATE March 31, 1977 7:45 AM

CITY Washington, D.C.

SUBJECT Interview With Representative Louis Stokes

DAVID HARTMAN: The committee set up by the House of Representatives to investigate the assassinations of John Kennedy and Martin Luther King has had constant controversy, and even some enemies. Yesterday there was a showdown vote in the House on whether to excend the investigation or to let it down. The decision, by a vote of 230 to 181, was to extend the committee for almost two more years.

The vote came right after two major news stories, one the resignation of the committee's chief council, Richard Sprague, and also the apparent suicide in Florida of a witness considered crucial in the Kennedy killing.

Congressman Louis Stokes of Ohio is the current chairman of the committee. He's in our Washington studio this morning with Jack Anderson and Tom Jarriel.

Good morning, Congressman.

REP. LOUIS STOKES: Good morning.

HARTMAN: George de Mohrenschildt apparently, or reportedly, committed suicide two days ago. As I just said, he was supposedly a crucial witness.

Was he a crucial witness, potentially, and why?

REP. STOKES: Yes, we did definitely consider him a very crucial witness in the Kennedy assassination probe. And, of course, one of our investigators had been in touch with his home just a few hours before he was found after having apparently committed suicide.

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HARTMAN: Why was he an important witness, Congressman?

REP. STOKES: Well, in terms of information that had come to us relative to his attachment to Lee Harvey Oswald, and several statements he had made relative to the Kennedy assassination, and the fact that he had prior information that the President was going to be assassinated.

JACK ANDERSON: Isn't it true, Congressman, that your committee was investigating the possibility that Oswald was in touch with the CIA in Dallas before the assassination and that this mystery witness knew something about that?

REP. STOKES: Yes, I think that's part of it, too.

TOM JARRIEL: Congressman, one report says that de Mohrenschildt may have given secret or classified information to the Warren Commission when it initially investigated the Kennedy assassination. Now that de Morhenschildt is dead and now that you were looking into this investigation, if he gave secret information to the Warren Commission, will you make it public?

REP. STOKES: Well, that would depend, really, upon the total investigation and what we uncover when we look into it. But there is evidence that he did testify, in either '63 or '64, before the Warren Commission.

JARRIEL: What would be the point of keeping it secret now?

REP. STOKES: Well, I'm not saying that we would. It's our intention to try and reveal all of the facts to the American people. That's the precise nature of this particular investigation.

HARTMAN: What evidence is there to indicate that he was associated with the CIA in some way?

REP. STOKES: Well, that's really a part of the investigation that is presently ongoing, and I'm really not at liberty to reveal the facts regarding that.

ANDERSON: Yesterday morning I reported that Cuba's Fidel Castro -- I reported it here on this show -- that Cuba's Fidel Castro had tried to get in touch with the committee and had left a message that he had information on Lee Harvey Oswald. Can you tell us more about that?

REP. STOKES: Well, testimony relevant to that was taken in executive session, which is, as you know, closed session of a committee. And I'm not at liberty to reveal the facts regarding that.

ANDERSON: Congressman, you've at least been connected

with this committee long enough to begin to form conclusions. I recognize that it's premature to form any final conclusions, but could you give us some idea as to whether you believe that there was actually a conspiracy in these two assassinations?

REP. STOKES: I'm really unable to say to you that conclusively, that there were conspiracies in either one. I can say to you that there are many leads, many previously unpursued leads that have come to us, many witnesses who've never previously given testimony to anyone regarding both of these assassinations, and I think that we have to sort out all of that type of testimony.

ANDERSON: Well, have you already found that the CIA and the FBI withheld information from the Warren Commission back in 1963?

REP. STOKES: No, that's one of the points, or high points, in the investigation, to ascertain whether or not they did in fact withhold such information, or give false information. And since it's at the threshold level at this point in time, I really cannot say that conclusively.

ANDERSON: But you would say that questions have been raised and loose ends have not been tied and that this needs to be done.

REP. STOKES: Oh, unquestionably. I think that's the real reason for the investigation.

JARRIEL: Some of the testimony of your committee, which we've obtained a transcript of, says that de Mohrenschildt, the man who apparently committed suicide, he was responsible for Oswald's activity. Now, we know that he kept Oswald's -- his wife kept Oswald's children and they were familiar personal friends in terms of travel and this type thing.

That phrase, "Oswald. He was -- de Mohrenschildt. He was responsible for Oswald's activitiy." Do you think that means his activities in Dallas, or he was responsible for harmless social activities?

REP. STOKES: Well, this is precisely one of the reasons why we wanted to interrogate de Mohrenschildt further, because we wanted to ascertain those questions, too.

JARRIEL: Will you be able to do it now?

REP. STOKES: Well, obviously not.

ANDERSON: Well, there are other witnesses, are there not, who have already testified in executive session about the CIA and the Oswald connection in Dallas?

REP. STOKES: Well, Jack, I can't answer those questions.

HARTMAN: Congressman, do you have any new information regarding the Martin Luther King assassination?

REP. STOKES: Well, we have talked to some witnesses and taken statements from many of the -- many witnesses, relative to that particular assassination, who have never previously testified to anyone, and we've had some very interesting testimony in that particular case.

HARTMAN: Congressman, why weren't these witnesses sought out earlier? Why didn't they testify before? We were led to believe that this was a very thorough investigation, and yet you're finding new witnesses. Where are they coming from and why?

REP. STOKES: Well, these are persons whom, in some cases, we feel could have been talked to and should have been talked to. And we, of course, intend to do a very thorough job of talking to everyone that does have any information regarding the King assassination.

HARTMAN: Who was responsible for their not being contacted initially?

REP. STOKES: Well, the FBI did most of the investigatory work relative to the King assassination.

HARTMAN: Congressman, thank you very much for being with us this morning.

Oswald Friend Kills Self; May Have Had CIA Ties

By CHARLES OSOLIN
Constitution Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON— The Russian-born geologist who apparently committed suicide when he learned his testimony was wanted concerning the assassination of President John F. Kennedy was a former friend of Lee Harvey Oswald and may have been a CIA operative and a double agent.

Rep. Richardson Preyer, D-N.C., chairman of a House subcommittee investigating the asssassination of President Kennedy, said George de Mohrenschildt was thought to have evidence linking Oswald with CIA-supported anti-Castro Cuban exiles in Florida and Texas.

The body of de Mohrenschildt, 65, was found Tuesday afternoon by his daughter Alexandra, 33, in the second floor study of oceanside mansion near Palm Beach, Fla., where he was visiting.

De Mohrenschildt apparently shot himself in the head with a 20-gauge shotgun after learning that a House investigator had called at the house earlier seeking his testimony.

Palm Beach County Sheriff's Lt. Richard Sheets said Palm Beach Medical Examiner Dr. Gambino Cuevas has ruled de Mohrenschildt's death "a result of a self-inflicted wound—a suicide."

While Preyer said he had no reason to believe that de Mohrenschildt's death was anything but a suicide, he said, "in 13 years (since Kennedy's assassination) so many witnesses involved in this have come to such mysterious ends, that you don't take anything for granted."

Preyer, who called de Mohrenschildt a "crucial" witness for the committee because of his first-hand knowledge of Oswald's activities, said new evidence has been uncovered suggesting that Oswald's apparent Marxist leanings — including his trips to Russia and a visit to the Cuban embassy in in Mexico City in October, 1963—may have been a "front" designed to hide his true allegences.

Preyer said the committee also wanted to pursue reports that de Mohrenschildt may have had advance knowledge of a conspiracy.

Among the questions the committee wanted to ask, Preyer said, was: "Did he (de Mohrenschildt) have a conversation with Oswald about the assassination before it occurred?"

Preyer sad the committee will work with Palm Beach County authorities to insure that de Mohrenschildt's personal effects, including any books or documents, have been secured. He said the committee has already moved to subpoena any relevant papers and tape recordings, but added that he could not confirm the existence of any specific tape recordings.

In Dallas, Pat Russell, de Mohrenschildt's attorney, confirmed that he holds various personal papers and a manuscript given to him by de Mohrenschildt, but he declined to discuss the material.

De Mohrenschildt, meanwhile, was reported by several sources to have been a been a former CIA agent who was in Haiti at the time of Kennedy's death in November, 1963.

One source said there was a "good chance" that de Mohrenschildt was a double agent working for an unspecified foreign government—a charge which de Mohrenschildt denied in lengthy published testimony before the Warren Commission.

A CIA spokesman, asked to comment on the reports of de Mohrenschildt's ties to the CIA, said "the agency does not normally comment on such matters."

Preyer acknowledged that committee investigators were aware early this year that de Mohrenschildt had been under psychiatric care for the last three months of 1976 at Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas.

Russell told reporters from the Palm Beach Post that his client had tried three times since last July to commit suicide—twice by taking pills and once by slashing his wrists.

Preyer said, however, that the committee had "no indication that he was crazy" after he was released from the hospital.

He said that de Mohrenschildt's testimony, if corroborated, could have been valuable to the committee despite any past emotional problems.

Preyer also firmly denied a charge by Rep. James H. (Jimmy) Quillen, R-Tenn., that the committee investigators knew if they continued to pursue their investigation it could lead to de Mohrenschildt's death.

"They were told that when they went to Dallas," Quillen said Tuesday as he spoke against a successful effort to extend the committee's life for two years.

Preyer, however, said the committee had "every reason to believe that he (de Mohrenschildt) was going to be cooperative. This was not a situation where we were hounding him or pushing him against the wall."

De Mohrenschildt, a professor of French at Dallas' Bishop College, was a close friend of Oswald and his wife, Marina, and took her and the couple's daughter into his home at one point. The Warren Commission, which reported in 1964 that Oswald acted alone in killing Kennedy, said it investigated de Mohrenschildt's associations with Oswald and found no evidence linking him to the assassination.

continued

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Earlier this year, however, a Dutch journalist named Willem Oltmans quoted de Mohrenschildt as saying he had prior knowledge of the assassination. Preyer said that Oltmans, who has been interviewed by Assassinations Committee investigators, was negotiating with de Mohrenschildt for rights to his story about the assassination when he suddenly disappeared about three weeks ago.

"Oltmans was working with him to arrange for him to perhaps write a book or an article, or be on television," Preyer said. "De Mohrenschildt had implied that once that was arranged, he was ready to say what he knew."

Preyer said the two men were supposed to meet for lunch in Brussells, but that de Mohrenschildt failed to keep the appointment. He left the country hurriedly, leaving his personal effects behind, Preyer said.

Early this week, committee investigator Gaeton J. Fonzi, a former Philadelphia investigative reporter who has been probing the Kennedy assassination for several months for various congressional committees, learned that de Mohrenschildt was visiting his daughter at the home of Mrs. Charles Tilton III in the Palm Beach suburb of Manalapan.

Fonzi visited the house at about noon on Tuesday and asked to speak to de Mohrenschildt, but was told that he was not at home. Shortly afterwards, de Mohrenschildt returned home. It was then, after learning of that visit, that he killed himself.

De Mohrenschildt, who fled Russia with his parents in 1921, was questioned extensively by the Warren Commission in 1964. In its report, the Commission said that de Mohrenschildt, then living in Dallas, was "apparently the only Russian-speaking person . . . for whom Oswald had appreciable respect and this seems to have been true even though de Mohrenschildt helped Marina Oswald leave her husband for a period in 1962."

After spending 18 months at the Polish Military Academy, de Mohrenschildt studied in Belgium before coming to the U.S., where he became interested in oil exploration and production, eventually receiving a degree in petroleum geology and engineering from the University of Texas in 1945. He became a U.S. citizen in 1949.

Russell said that de Mohrenschildt's life first began to crumble with the death of his son in 1960. The attorney termed de Mohrenschildt an "intellectual radical" who supported minority ideals. "I don't believe he ever had any part in the assassination of John Kennedy," Russell told the Post. "He may have discussed with Oswald assassinations in general or President Kennedy in particular. But I don't think he had any knowledge of what Oswald planned."

House Assassinations

ARTICLE APPEARED ON PAGE A-1

WASHINGTON POST
1 APRIL 1977

Assassinations Panel Studied 'Choreography' as the Art of Survival

By George Lardner Jr.
Washington Post Staff Writer

The House Assassinations Committee spent much of its time at a secret meeting two weeks ago on the "choreography" and "scenario" for winning congressional and public support of its inquiry.

"This, of course, is not the way to conduct an investigation," Rep. Samuel L. Devine (R-Ohio) observed at one point, according to a transcript of the session that was released inadvertently. "But what we are talking about today is survival."

At another point, committee Chairman Louis Stokes (D-Ohio) was reminded of the members of the press waiting outside the meeting room and was asked what he might tell "these wolves outside the door."

"I think you should keep them right where you have them now, champing at the bit and not tell them anything," advised Rep. Floyd J. Fithian (D-Ind.).

The March 17 meeting came at a time when the committee was still struggling to survive in the wake of weeks of acrimony over the efforts of former Chairman Henry B. Gonzalez (D-Tex.) to fire the committee's chief counsel, Richard A. Sprague. House posed another public hearing that might include "something like what we did yesterday" when "we had Mr. Trafficante there and he was pleading the Fifth Amendment."

"I think we did more yesterday, even without getting factual information, simply because it focused again on the fact that we are looking into the issue," Edgar said enthusiastically.

". . . I realize that, in terms of the investigative technique and issues, that is not the way to go," the Pennsylvania Democrat added, "but I guess leaders, already chagrined by the committee's slow pace in investigating the murders of President Kennedy and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., were widely predicting its likely downfall.

With Stokes as their new chairman, committee members seemed to have been heartened by the publicity stemming from the public hearing of the day before, March 16, at which gangland leader Santo Trafficante Jr. refused to testify, invoking the Fifth Amendment and other constitutional rights.

Rep. Robert W. Edgar (D-Pa.) proposed that the committee "have some concern about the scenario and the choreography and I realize that while we do not want a circus atmosphere, we want it to be as content-filled as possible . . ."

In the continuing discussion, Fithian cautioned against placing too much reliance on press coverage of public hearings by the committee. He complained specifically about coverage in The Washington Post.

Fithian agreed, however, that the two or three public meetings the committee had had were helping to erode the feeling generally held by many members of the House that "we really have not done anything" even "regardless of how badly Lardner [Washington Post staff writer George Lardner Jr.] has reported them, and he has reported them pretty badly."

Suggestions were made for secret briefings of the House Democratic leadership and other influential members of Congress such as the members of the Rules Committee. Edgar kept suggesting a follow-up public hearing that might include a discussion of the budget and other matters.

He said the meeting could begin with a 45-minute segment, "split between the Kennedy and King assassinations as to what direction we are going and what evidence and information we can share publicly."

Deputy chief counsel Robert J. Lehner, the man in charge of the King investigation, said later in the meeting he would really be hard put to hold forth in public for the requisite length of time.

"I think when you talk about 45 minutes, I would have to do a little soft shoe dance' in the middle of it," Lehner told the committee.

Sprague agreed that a public session on the fruits of the investigation wouldn't work because the staff would be forced to serve up "almost a rehash" of what has long been public.

That, Sprague emphasized, would amount to "not saying anything." He said that "the only things that they [The staff] can say of significance" are "things that are too raw and uncorroborated for us to be stating publicly."

In the end, the committee, which survived its House test narrowly this week but only after Sprague resigned, simply issued a report listing some of the uncorroborated leads it is pursuing.

At the March 17 meeting, committee members also agreed that the report should say nothing "of the impediments and the financial limitations and the problem of the previous Chairman [Gonzalez]."

Sprague asked how those sore points should be treated in the committee report.

"Ignored, I would say, completely," Chairman Stokes ordered.

"Benign neglect," interjected Rep. Christopher Dodd (D-Conn.).

Stokes, a black congressman from Cleveland, agreed. "Yes," he said. "That deplorable expression."

The March 17 transcript was inadvertently released late Wednesday after the committee had authorized release of another hitherto secret transcript containing Sprague's rebuttal of various charges against him.

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ARTICLE APPEARED ON PAGE A-5
WASHINGTON STAR (GREEN LINE)
1 APRIL 1977

Dutch Journalist to Testify On Role of Oswald Friend

By Jeremiah O'Leary
Washington Star Staff Writer

More details of the late George de Mohrenschildt's connection with Lee Harvey Oswald and the murder of President John F. Kennedy will be given to the House Assassinations Committee today by a witness close to the Russian-born Dallas professor.

Willem Oltmans, a Dutch journalist who had cultivated de Mohrenschildt for a decade after the death of Kennedy, is scheduled to make a second appearance before committee probers today. He was interviewed here last month by the Kenneay task force of the committee after de Mohrenschildt disappeared in Brussels while the two were in Europe attempting to arrange publication of a book written about the Kennedy case by the 65-year-old teacher.

De Mohrenschildt committed suicide Tuesday in Palm Beach, Fla., while House investigators were trying to contact him for questioning on what he knew about Oswald and the 1963 slaying of Kennedy.

Oltmans told The Washington Star he can now give the committee new details of what de Mohrenschildt told him about his connection with Oswald and Oswald's Russian wife Marina. The Oswalds and de Mohrenschildt were friends in the Russian-speaking community of Dallas, but the Warren Commission had concluded de Mohrenschildt had no connection with Kennedy's death.

THE MANUSCRIPT of de Mohrenschildt's book, reportedly in the custody of de Mohrenschildt's Dallas lawyer, Pat S. Russell, is said to name CIA and FBI agents involved in the assassination and to spell out de Mohrenschildt's claim that he was responsible for Oswald's behavior.

In the meantime, it was learned today from reliable sources that de Mohrenschildt tried to commit suicide four times in 1976 both with drug overdoses and by slashing his wrists. These attempts resulted in his being committed for mental care to Parkland Hospital in Dallas last fall. It was at Parkland that Kennedy was pronounced dead after he was shot in a Dallas motorcade more than 13 years ago. Shot by nightclub owner Jack Ruby in the Dallas police headquarters building, Oswald died there two days after Kennedy.

Meanwhile, Chairman Louis Stokes of the House Assassinations Committee has taken personal charge of the 65-person staff during what he says is a period of reorganization after the traumatic internal struggles that nearly destroyed the panel.

Stokes, D-Ohio, yesterday spent two hours at staff headquarters in the dingy former FBI fingerprint building, first addressing the committee employes and then touring their working area.

THE MEETING WAS closed to the press, but reporters heard Stokes receive several ovations in the 30-minute period. Later, Stokes said he told the staff, now stripped of its guiding spirit, former Chief Counsel Richard A. Sprague, how proud he was of them and that he hoped all of them would remain on the job during the reorganization period.

Stokes said the committee is now looking for a new chief counsel of top caliber and he added, "We'll look for the best." He did not rule out the possibility of considering the present deputy counsels, Richard Lehner and Richard Tanenbaum, for the top spot, but indicated the panel would take its time determining who the new staff director will be.

In another development, The Associated Press reported the committee's JFK task force is pursuing two leads that may shed new light on the murder of Kennedy. One of these leads reportedly is that there may be too many bullet fragments for Lee Harvey Oswald to have killed Kennedy by himself.

The other lead, reported to the committee by investigators in a closed-door briefing, is that a woman who worked in a Dallas nightclub is willing to testify that Jack Ruby introduced Oswald to her as "Lee Harvey Oswald of the CIA."

The Warren Commission report concluded that Oswald fired three bullets at Kennedy from a window of the Texas Schoolbook Depository and that Ruby and Oswald did not know one another before the assassination. Ruby shot Oswald to death two days after the president's assassination while Oswald was in police custody.

THE EVIDENCE about the bullets is said to be from the head nurse at Parkland Hospital. She was quoted as saying four or five bullet fragments were removed from former Texas Gov. John B. Connally and, if that is true, the three-bullet theory of the FBI and the Warren Commission would no longer be valid.

It would mean that at least four bullets were fired and at least one of these would have had to have been fired from some other vantage point at the Kennedy motorcade.

The woman who worked in the nightclub is said to contend that she was with Ruby and Oswald two weeks before the 1963 murder. Tanenbaum, according to AP, said the same woman is prepared to testify that she was taking pictures at Dealey Plaza when Kennedy was killed and that her film was taken from her two days later by men identifying themselves as being from the CIA and FBI.

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ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE A-6

NEW YORK TIMES
1 APRIL 1977

Ruby Introduced Oswald as C.I.A. Agent, Woman Tells House Inquiry

WASHINGTON, March 31 (AP)—Investigators of the House Assassinations Committee told committee members in a secret briefing this month that a woman who worked in a Dallas nightclub before President Kennedy was assasssinated was willing to testify that Jack Ruby introduced Lee Harvey Oswald to her and to others as "Lee Harvey Oswald of the C.I.A."

Mr. Ruby, a Dallas nightclub owner, killed Mr. Oswald after the Kennedy assassination. The Warren Commission concluded that Mr. Ruby did not know Mr. Oswald before the assassination, and Mr. Ruby maintained he had not previously known Mr. Oswald.

A 20-page section of the secret March 17 briefing was accidentally released by the committee yesterday, a day after the House voted to give the panel two years to pursue its investigations of the killings of President Kennedy and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Doubt on Warren Commission

The investigators also said the possibility that there were too many bullet fragments for Mr. Oswald to have killed Kennedy alone had been raised because of the story of a nurse. She was identified as the head nurse at Parkland Hospital in Dallas. Investigators quoted her as saying four or five bullet fragments, not one clean bullet, were removed from John B. Connally, then Governor of Texas, who was wounded when Mr. Kennedy was killed.

If that is true, the investigators said, the Warren Commission's conclusion that one bullet went through President Kennedy's body and then traveled on to wound Mr. Connally might no longer be valid.

Robert Tannenbaum, the committee's chief investigator of the Kennedy assassination, told the committee: "If the four or five fragments in fact were taken out and if we can show—if we can locate them—that they weigh more than that portion that is missing from that bullet, then the very cornerstone and basis of the entire Warren Commission report is no longer valid."

The commission, headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren, concluded that Mr. Oswald was acting alone in killing President Kennedy and was not part of a conspiracy.

Mr. Tannenbaum told the committee that he considered the bullet theory and the former nightclub worker's story "very significant." He said the woman was prepared to testify on Mr. Ruby's reference to Mr. Oswald as being from the Central Intelligence Agency.

Further, Mr. Tannenbaum said, the same woman is prepared to testify that she was taking pictures at Dealy Plaza when Mr. Kennedy was killed there and that two men identifying themselves as C.I.A. and Federal Bureau of Investigation agents took the film from her two days later. Mr. Tannenbaum quoted her as saying her camera angle would show parts of the controversial grassy knoll. He added "that could be crucial."

One conspiracy theory that has never been proved was that shots were fired from a gun on the grassy knoll at the same time Oswald was firing from the Texas schoolbook depository building.

Suicide Time Pinpointed

PALM BEACH, Fla., March 31 (AP)—A tape recorder being used to transcribe a television program recorded the gunshot when a friend of Lee Harvey Oswald killed himself, the authorities say.

Lieut. Richard Sheets of the Palm Beach County sheriff's office said there were no sounds of anyone else in the background as George de Mohrenschildt died.

Mr Sheets said that by comparing the tape with television station logs the investigators determined that Mr. de Mohrenschildt, 65, shot himself at 15 seconds past 2:21 P.M. Tuesday. Mr. Sheets said the autopsy, which concluded Mr. de Mohrenschildt committed suicide, would be reviewed before the case was closed. But he indicated he thought the death was a suicide.

Mr. de Mohrenschildt, a Dallas geologist, apparently shot himself after an investigator for the House Assassinations Committee tried to interview him, the officials said. Mr. de Mohrenschildt had known Lee Harvey Oswald and his wife, Marina.

Mr. de Mohrenschildt was a psychiatric patient at the Parkland Hospital in Dallas for 51 days late last year after a suicide attempt, according to a United Press International report today.

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[redacted]

FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

PROGRAM Panorama STATION WTTG TV

DATE April 1, 1977 12:30 PM CITY Washington, D.C.

SUBJECT Interview With Wilhelm Oltmans

PAT MITCHELL: Mr. Wilhelm Oltmans, who is a Dutch journalist, has been talking for three straight hours before the House committee investigating the assassination of John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King.

WILHELM OLTMANS: After no sleep for 48 hours.

MITCHELL: Well, I know that you're probably tired of talking. But the story, as it began to be revealed this morning in your first appearance on ABC, is that you have some shocking revelations, I think, for most people.

OLTMANS: Is it?

MITCHELL: Yes.

OLTMANS: Not to me.

MITCHELL: About the Kennedy assassination, saying that Lee Harvey Oswald was a middleman between some Dallas oil millionaires and anti-Castro Cuban forces.

OLTMANS: Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. That was summed up beautifully. I couldn't do it any better than you just did.

MITCHELL: I suspect, though, that you could elaborate on it better than I can.

OLTMANS: Oh, you are one of those.

FRANK MANKIEWICZ: Maybe we should remind our viewers that Mr. Oltmans is the man whose interview with this fellow George

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de Mohrenschildt in Dallas probably led to his suicide, if indeed it was a suicide.

MITCHELL: Yes, I wanted to ask...

MANKIEWICZ: De Mohrenschildt, of course, was the sort of White Russian adventurer and probably involved in some intelligence agencies who in effect took over Lee Harvey Oswald and his wife when they returned to Dallas from Moscow. And he's the one who talked to you.

OLTMANS: Exactly, for 11 years.

MITCHELL: You have known this information for 11 years?

OLTMANS: No.

MANKIEWICZ: No, he's known de Mohrenschidt for 11 years.

OLTMANS: I have been following de Mohrenschidt closely for roughly 11 years, and I have always been open to him, but I still -- I liked him, but that I suspected him. And he would walk the razor's edge, as Somerset Maugham would say. He would play with it, he had fun, he was in control of what he was doing. He was very healthy. He would win tennis cups, he would jog every day. He was as healthy as a rock.

On top of it, he came from very good stock, European nobility. He was very well educated. He was a marvelous man.

MITCHELL: When did he crack, in terms of talking to you?

OLTMANS: Very good question. He cracked immediately after he wrote a book, and he feels that he -- when he wrote his book about the Kennedy assassination, he was drugged. Because without de Mohrenschildt having been drugged, he could have never gone through this complete transformation from, I would say, totally sane to half-mad.

MANKIEWICZ: You mean when he was in an institution last year.

OLTMANS: When he was in an institution. He was only there five weeks or six weeks for a checkup and for control. He was given the worst electric shock treatments anybody could get. But he was declared unharmful and [unintelligible] went back to give classes at Bishop College, in French.

MITCHELL: Did he commit himself at this point? I mean did he go voluntarily into that hospital for a checkup and the electric shock?

ARTICLE ON PAGE 12
THE BOSTON GLOBE
2 April 1977

OLTMANS: No, his wife -- I understand, but I haven't talked to Mrs. de Mohrenschildt for quite some time. His story is that she committed him to the hospital.

MANKIEWICZ: Have you seen his book?

OLTMANS: No. But I have, at the request of [unintelligible] Television, with Mr. Inkler (?), we called from...

MANKIEWICZ: This is our joint network...

OLTMANS: The 4th March I called during a meeting in the Netherlands with George de Mohrenschildt to Mr. Pat Russell in Dallas, the lawyer of the family de Mohrenschildt, and he confirmed that the manuscript was in his file, in Mr. de Mohrenschildt's file. And then I asked, "If I come to Dallas, can we get it? Can we get it?"

If I remember correctly, he said, "We will have to discuss this."

Apparently Mrs. de Mohrenschildt and Mr. de Mohrenschildt were divorced at that point, and apparently she would have some rights to anything he would write.

MITCHELL: But did you see the manuscript, or did he talk to you about his connection?

OLTMANS: He talked about it. He sent me several pages of the manuscript for me to check them, whether they were written correctly. And I changed them and elaborated on them, and he wrote me that he was very happy with the changes.

MANKIEWICZ: And he told you, substantially, that he had foreknowledge of the John Kennedy assassination.

OLTMANS: Now we talk about something else than the book. The confession of Mr. de Mohrenschildt that was so shocking to me on the 23rd of February in Dallas, Bishop College, was that he came flatly out. He approached it this way:

MANKIEWICZ: Was this conversation in English?

OLTMANS: In English. He approached it this way: He said, "I don't want to go to jail for being an accessory to the assassination of President Kennedy. But you are the only one I trust. I've known you for 11 years." We have some family connections. Part of my family is Polish nobility and de Mohrenschildt is from Swedish-Russian nobility. The families knew each other. He let me into his circle, probably also in part because of my going back to the Puslaskis of the Polish side.

But he said, "I have waited for you to come and I want to work this out with you. Now, you are experienced. You will know how much I can say without going straight to jail."

So I've been doing that. I've been very careful. I have -- in my testimony for the committee on the 11th of February, I have been taking into account that de Mohrenschildt -- Mr. de Mohrenschildt told me information in deep background, as we call it in Washington, and some on background.

MANKIEWICZ: Yes. Let me ask you this: When Lee Harvey Oswald came back from the Soviet Union with his wife, he was met in New York by a rather shadowy figure who purported to be from the Traveles Aid Society, but in fact was fronting for some Eastern European liberation group, probably financed by the Central Intelligence Agency. You don't have to answer that. He then went to Dallas and became, very soon thereafter, involved with de Mohrenschildt.

OLTMANS: I have tapes admitted to the House Assassination Committee. I have taped the de Mohrenschildt family, in addition to my television film I did with them, for nine full hours in the CBS studio in Dallas in 1969. We sat down an entire day, with a break for lunch. And they told from A to Zed the entire story of their involvement with Oswald.

And, Frank, one thing is interesting to you: de Mohrenschildt says on that tape that he went looking for Oswald in the company of a Russian colonel named Orlov.

MANKIEWICZ: He went looking for Oswald...

OLTMANS: In Fort Worth. It was not Fort Worth looking...

MANKIEWICZ: This was before he met Oswald.

OLTMANS: He had heard about Oswald.

MANKIEWICZ: From whom?

OLTMANS: From the Russian community in Dallas, that there was an American having been in Russia, and Marina, a Russian wife.

MANKIEWICZ: But the Russian community that you're talking about were refugee Russians, right?

OLTMANS: Yes, right.

MANKIEWICZ: Not czarist, perhaps, but the next generation after czarist, at least; White Russians, as we used to call them.

OLTMANS: You are very right.

MITCHELL: And what did they want with Lee Harvey Oswald?

MANKIEWICZ: And why did they want him?

OLTMANS: Well, that was why it was so shocking for me to hear de Mohrenschildt, after 11 years, come out, close to tears, sitting in the library in Bishop College: "I have to tell -- I have to tell the Oswald story .. it really is. I have to do this now. My wife left me. I'm going to leave Bishop College, because I'm 65. But help me, so that I don't go to jail."

MITCHELL: Can you tell us?

OLTMANS: Yes, now. And I'm very sad about -- this is, of course, a shocking end for such -- for this life of this man. But I called the committee for that reason, because I do not feel any obligation now to withhold those things he told me.

MANKIEWICZ: Do you think someone -- did he indicate to you that someone told de Mohrenschildt to go look for Oswald?

OLTMANS: That I don't know. No, he's not -- well, that I don't know. That is a very good question. I wouldn't know. I have no indication whether he was told by anybody.

MITCHELL: Well, what is the Oswald story?

MANKIEWICZ: But during the time that he was involved with Oswald, do you think he was his own man, or do you think someone was running him?

OLTMANS: De Mohrenschildt was so well placed in Dallas society, he is not a type to be anybody's man. He was very close with H.L. Hunt, inviting him to all his parties. He knew him very closely. He knew many oil people on a level of like colleagues in our profession. I mean this is not a matter of giving orders. He was on the top.

MITCHELL: Mr. Oltmans, H.L. Hunt's name is mentioned and named by you as being one of the Dallas oil men who had something to do with a possible conspiracy.

OLTMANS: Yes. That is what George de Mohrenschildt flatly indicated to me, yes.

MITCHELL: Were there other names as well as Mr. Hunt's?

OLTMANS: A number of names, yes. I have everything -- I have everything submitted this morning to the committee, as far as I knew, under oath.

MANKIEWICZ: But he was suggesting to you that he was aware of a conspiracy...

OLTMANS: Yes, yes, oh, very much.

MANKIEWICZ: ...not that he was part of it.

OLTMANS: Of course not. He...

MANKIEWICZ: Of course not, he wasn't a part, or of course not, he wouldn't admit that he was a part.

OLTMANS: He said that Oswald acted at his instruction.

MANKIEWICZ: His, de Mohrenschildt's, instruction.

OLTMANS: Yes, yes.

MANKIEWICZ: Prior to the assassination.

OLTMANS: Prior to the -- that he was sure that Oswald killed -- that Oswald was involved in the assassination. He said in Port-au-Prince, in Haiti, on the day of Kennedy's killing, that Oswald must be the man who got Kennedy.

MANKIEWICZ: De Mohrenschildt at that time was involved with the CIA in Haiti?

OLTMANS: I don't know. He must have been, because in his manuscript he mentions, as I said this morning, a number of names of CIA and FBI people.

MITCHELL: Mr. Oltmans, can you give us those names?

OLTMANS: No, that would be unwise at this point. That's why the committee meeting was off the record. I also have to consult first NRS (?), Dutch Television, how far they want me to go in telling the story that we collected in 11 years to other television -- competitive television stations.

MANKIEWICZ: But you gave those names to the committee.

OLTMANS: Oh, yes. I gave one particular name of an FBI official to the committee, which is probably very crucial and very important. It is not Hoover.

MANKIEWICZ: This is a name that de Mohrenschildt gave you.

OLTMANS: Yes, yes. And it is supposed to be in the manuscript that is in Dallas in the lawyer's office.

MANKIEWICZ: What about on the tape?

OLTMANS: There are names, yes, many names on the tape. But I am not so sure that they are very revealing, because that tape was made in 1968. There are, of course, interesting names on the tape, like Colonel Orlov, that nobody ever heard about, to my knowledge.

MANKIEWICZ: And Colonel Orlov was also from this White Russian community.

OLTMANS: Apparently, yes.

MITCHELL: Why would the -- I mean was there any indication on the tape, in your conversations, as to why people such as H.L. Hunt, who is named, would have any interest in the assassination of John F. Kennedy?

OLTMANS: That was made clear by Mr. de Mohrenschildt to me. And, as a matter of fact, the dozens of letters that I have over the 10-years' exchange with him confirm that statement that he recently made to me. In the letters transpires this same mentality that he spoke of that was the real...

MITCHELL: And what was it?

OLTMANS: I don't want to be uncooperative. But as you must understand, I have just been before the committee. I came here out of courtesy, but I must consult my own television people, because they spent 11 years of my traveling back and forth from Holland to...

MITCHELL: ...understand, as a journalist, we must...

OLTMANS: Oh, you are very good at it.

MANKIEWICZ: Pat and I are going to push you as far as we can.

OLTMANS: I understand, but forgive me, I live to be -- you are the first...

[Confusion of voices]

MANKIEWICZ: Let me ask you this, because these names have come up. You talked earlier today about the relationship not only of oil people but of anti-Castro Cubans. And I take it de Mohrenschildt gave you some indication that Oswald was involved with them as well.

OLTMANS: Clear indication. Clear indication.

MANKIEWICZ: Was there any indication of connections with organized crime?

OLTMANS: Not to my knowledge, at all.

MANKIEWICZ: And did he at any time mention...

OLTMANS: De Mohrenschildt is not the type to get involved with that, in my view.

MANKIEWICZ: Did he at any time mention Jack Ruby to you?

OLTMANS: Oh, yes, because I asked. I asked him recently, "Did you know Jack Ruby?"

He said, "Yes."

And then I asked a trick question. I asked, "Did you -- did you visit Ruby's nightclub one week before the assassination?" He was supposed to be in Haiti.

And he said, carefully, "I suppose so."

MANKIEWICZ: "I suppose so."

OLTMANS: Yeah. You see, he was very slippery.

MANKIEWICZ: Why didn't you ask him that question?

OLTMANS: Because Oswald's letter had just been published by the FBI that he supposedly wrote to Mr. H.L. Hunt, and it was just in the middle of when we were discussing leaving for Holland in February. So I asked him, on that subject, a number of questions.

MITCHELL: Was George de Mohrenschildt ever interviewed by the Warren Commission when they were investigating the assassination?

OLTMANS: Oh, I think -- yes. The testimony of Mr. and Mrs. de Mohrenschildt runs much longer than that of Marguerite Oswald or Marina Oswald, his wife, some 250 pages. He was very suspected, but the conclusion was "Okay, they are outside." But that is very sloppy.

Mr. Tip O'Neill said, I think yesterday, or so, that it is obvious that we need the Warren Commission to be reexamined.

MANKIEWICZ: What -- you asked -- I'm not sure I understand why you asked de Mohrenschildt if he had been to Jack Ruby's night-club a week before the assassination.

OLTMANS: Well, what I asked was, for instance, the money thing, you know. And that's how -- who paid whom?

MANKIEWICZ: Did you ask him if he had paid anybody any money?

OLTMANS: No. De Mohrenschildt...

MANKIEWICZ: Or if he had been paid any money?

OLTMANS: I admire your persistence in trying to get as much out of my story as possible, Frank. But you will understand that I must display a certain loyalty to my own...

MITCHELL: Well, I'm going to ask you to speculate on something, then. Do you think that De Mohrenschildt really committed suicide?

OLTMANS: Oh, if you ask me as a journalist, I say I don't know, because I haven't been able to do anything about it. I only heard it yesterday that he had committed suicide. If you ask my personal opinion, outside the journalistic one, I would say personally I consider it most likely that he did.

MANKIEWICZ: Most...

OLTMANS: Most likely that he did. Because, Frank, he has threatened all through the trip I made, from February 23rd till March 5th, then he disappeared in Brussels, he has said, "Okay, I'll give you something." He said, "Three things can happen to me. Either I talk," to me, "or they drive me mad, or I will kill myself."

MITCHELL: And who are "they"?

OLTMANS: Okay, that also I have much to say about. I have much to say about that.

MANKIEWICZ: In another forum.

OLTMANS: If you don't mind. Maybe I get very much in trouble for having gone...

MANKIEWICZ: That's all right. I'll take care of you.

OLTMANS: Help me, Frank.

MANKIEWICZ: Now, let me ask you this: If you asked de Mohrenschildt, for whatever reason, if he had been to Jack Ruby's nightclub a week before the assassination, and he said to you...

OLTMANS: "I suppose so."

MANKIEWICZ: "Probably," or, "I suppose so." Now, here is a man who is suave, distinguished, a member of upper-class Dallas society, a friend of bogus White Guard colonels, very much involved

with White Russian society and upper-class people. What was your next question when he told you that he had probably been to Jack Ruby's saloon, which was probably as sleazy a place as there was around?

OLTMANS: Well, I then went into the financial aspect of the Kennedy assassination.

MANKIEWICZ: Thank you. I have no further questions.

OLTMANS: Oh, otherwise I would have said...

MANKIEWICZ: No, I do. I have lots of questions. Go ahead.

OLTMANS: You see, the problem with Mr. de Mohrenschildt is that in the 10 years I knew him, till the 23rd of February, he was healthy as a rock, a good sportsman; he was fantastic.

MANKIEWICZ: Until you took the trip to Europe with him.

OLTMANS: No. Until I have known him all those years, he was fine. Then I didn't see him for a year.

MANKIEWICZ: Oh, I see.

OLTMANS: And I saw him for the first time on the 23rd of February, and I thought I saw a different man.

MANKIEWICZ: This is in Brussels.

OLTMANS: This was in Dallas, Bishop College. When I met him in Dallas on the 23rd of February and when he made a confession, I didn't recognize him. He was a mental, physical -- he was a wreck.

MITCHELL: Mr. Oltmans, will that make people doubt that confession? Will there be some concern because they will say...

OLTMANS: Okay. He was in a mental...

MITCHELL: ...he was not in good health.

OLTMANS: That's true. But he was only six weeks in a mental hospital, or five weeks. Now, I understand Mr. Bukovsky was several years in a mental hospital. He came to the United States and your unions made him address their union conferences, the President and the Vice President received him in the White House, because they apparently think him of enough mental quality to have a serious conversation.

MANKIEWICZ: But what was your impression of De Mohrenschildt? Did you think that he had degenerated?

OLTMANS: No, it's not -- no.

MANKIEWICZ: It was what, his physical aspect?

OLTMANS: No. The man was petrified. He was scared to death that he was about to talk, he wanted to talk, and that they would do something to him. He begged me to take him to the Netherlands, and that's what I did.

MANKIEWICZ: Did you ask him if he told the truth to the Warren Commission? Or was it clear to you that he did not?

OLTMANS: I have a lot to say about that, too, Frank. I'm -- you are my colleagues. I want to be most cooperative and friendly. But I'm going a little bit out of my...

MANKIEWICZ: I understand.

MITCHELL: You may not be able to answer this one either, but I'm curious. He did go to the Netherlands with you after that meeting?

OLTMANS: Yes.

MITCHELL: Was there any attempt on the part of the other people that he was afraid of to reach him during that time?

OLTMANS: No, not that I know of.

MITCHELL: And why did he come back?

OLTMANS: I have no idea.

MANKIEWICZ: He ducked you in Brussels.

OLTMANS: He ducked me in Brussels, after a luncheon there, and he went for a walk and never returned. And only this Sunday I got a message that he was back in the country, because I had set it up very cleverly that I would know immediately when he got back. I was controlling his automobile. The automobile of George de Mohrenschildt was with a friend of mine. So I knew that if he ever returned to the United States, he would first check where is car -- his car. And so my friends in Houston immediately notified me.

As a matter of fact, it was very sad, actually, that I informed the deputy counsel of the committee on Monday morning of George's whereabouts in Florida.

MITCHELL: And that's when they reached him...

OLTMANS: And they told me that they would sen someone out

there and that they would reach him on Tuesday. And he apparently shot himself almost immediately after that person reached de Mohrenschildt.

MANKIEWICZ: He had never spoken to any representative of the committee, right?

OLTMANS: Not yet. Not yet.

MANKIEWICZ: Not even to make an appointment to meet.

OLTMANS: No. So he said. I don't know why...

MANKIEWICZ: Now, we're talking about a manuscript of his that so far as you know is in his lawyer's possession in Fort Worth.

OLTMANS: Right, yes.

MANKIEWICZ: And we're talking about a tape that you made with him that is where?

OLTMANS: Nine hours.

MANKIEWICZ: That is where.

OLTMANS: In NOS Television, as you well know. And one of the nine tapes is already with the committee, and I think they are going to telegraph this afternoon for the other eight.

MANKIEWICZ: And those tapes were made in 1969.

OLTMANS: Right.

MANKIEWICZ: In the CBS station in Dallas.

OLTMANS: Studio in Dallas.

MITCHELL: But he said things to you in February that he had not said on that tape.

OLTMANS: Oh, 180 degrees different.

MANKIEWICZ: And did you tape the conversation in February?

OLTMANS: No, no. You see, he overran me with this confession.

MANKIEWICZ: This took place where, in his office at Bishop College?

OLTMANS: In Bishop College library, exactly. And I put a

dime in a coin phone and called Carl Lankler (?), whom you know well, of Dutch Television, and asked permission, by collect phone to the Netherlands, to ship us together to the Netherlands. And I got that authorization immediately.

I wanted to go as quickly as possible to one of those cameras with the man. That's my job. When CBS asked me -- television aske me, "Why didn't you go to the nearest police station?" I replied that "I'm a journalist and my job is that even if the man says he killed the President of the United States, that I go to the nearest camera, and not the nearest police station."

MITCHELL: And he knew that, didn't he?

OLTMANS: And he knew it and he was willing to do it. And he said in full executive session in the Netherlands, in negotiation on the 4th of March that lasted four or five hours, that he was ready to do it. And they were going to set him up in a nearby hotel, he would get a complete staff, we would try to get the manuscript, in order to win time, out of the lawyer's office in Dallas; that's why we called, and etcetera.

MITCHELL: So he was prepared to do a full confession on Dutch television.

OLTMANS: You two are really terrible. Do you mind? You have really squeezed more out of this lemon than I intended.

MANKIEWICZ: May I ask you just a couple of more questions? And all you have to do is just say no, you're not going to answer that.

Much was made at the time of the assassination and for a while thereafter, and then in the last year a great deal, about connections between Oswald and Cuba, an attempt, I think, to establish not that he was involved with anti-Castro people, but involved somehow with the government of Cuba.

Did you talk to de Mohrenschildt about Oswald's Cuban connections at all?

OLTMANS: Yes

MANKIEWICZ: You did.

OLTMANS: Yes.

MANKIEWICZ: And his alleged involvement with the Fair Play for Cuba Committee.

OLTMANS: Yes, some, not too much. And the committee pressed on that point very much this morning.

MANKIEWICZ: I'm not surprised.

OLTMANS: Several members of the committee. And I had, unfortunately, to -- I'm very sorry that I could not really come out, because I have most of my notes in Holland on this...

MANKIEWICZ: I see.

OLTMANS: I have to be very precise; I was under oath. So I asked them to be pardoned, to reply to them.

MANKIEWICZ: But your conversation...

OLTMANS: This is a different reason than...

MANKIEWICZ: Sure.. But your conversations with de Mohrenschildt involved the names of certain Cubans.

OLTMANS: Oh, yes, yes -- no, never.

MITCHELL: No names.

OLTMANS: Well, there is a story on that, too, but -- yes. But that I will also bring out...

MANKIEWICZ: But at least it involved the affiliations of certain Cubans.

OLTMANS: Yes. That's right.

MANKIEWICZ: Their ideological connection. And they were anti-Castro rather than...

OLTMANS: Very much anti-Castro.

MITCHELL: Mr. Oltmans, were you in this country for the testimony, or had you come in pursuit of Mr. de Mohrenschildt?

OLTMANS: No, no, no, I never pursued the dear man. No, I was here for lectures and for other work. I'm writing a book about the United States now, and I was doing here my work until I heard -- I was in Minneapolis and I heard only -- as a matter of fact, I moved already to Boston, to Harvard, where I have a number of appointments, and then I heard that he had killed himself, and I came immediately to Washington.

MITCHELL: I thank you for coming immediately to Panorama from your testimony. And didn't want to press you too hard, but just as you go to those cameras, so do we.

OLTMANS: I apologize for....

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE 2

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS
1 APRIL 1977

Probe: Maybe Oswald Was Not Alone

By JOSEPH VOLZ

Washington (News Bureau) — House Assassinations Committee investigators say that new evidence concerning bullet fragments may disprove the Warren Commission conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald was the lone killer of President Kennedy 13 years ago.

Robert Tanenbaum, a former New York City prosecutor who now heads the panel's Kennedy assassination investigating team, contends that a nurse at Parkland Hospital in Dallas, where Kennedy and then-Texas Gov. John B. Connally were brought after they were shot, saw four or five bullet fragments removed from Connally. the Warren Commission said that one bullet had passed through Kennedy and Connally, remaining intact.

From a Grassy Knoll?

Tanenbaum, in secret testimony to the committee on March 17, leaked accidentally by a committee staffer, said the fragments, "if we can locate them," may weigh more than a single bullet. If so, they would demonstrate that at least two bullets were fired, adding credibility to the theory that two or more persons were shooting at the President.

Many conspiracy theorists claim that shots were not only fired from the Texas School Book Depository, where Oswald's rifle was allegedly found, but also from a grassy knoll near the route of the presidential caravan. The Warren Commission rejected the theory that any shots were fired from the knoll.

Tanenbaum said that the fragments — if they can be found — will also be tested to see if they all came from the same bullet.

Committee investigators, who won House support on Tuesday for a two-year investigation, also have been trying to find a Dallas woman who claimed that Jack Ruby, the night-club owner who killed Oswald, once introduced her to "Oswald of the CIA."

Tanenbaum believes that the woman — who was not otherwise identified — might help pin down rumors that Ruby and Oswald knew each other and were engaged in some sort of assassination conspiracy.

The Oswald Killing

Under the most widely held theory, Ruby supposedly killed Oswald to keep him quit about the identities of the "real" conspirators, who never surfaced.

The woman, who worked in another Dallas night club, also recalled that Oswald was linked to the CIA. There have been various reports that Oswald made contact with the CIA before the assassination. However, there are no confirmed reports that he was ever a CIA employe or that the agency participated in the assassination in any way.

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THE BOSTON GLOBE
2 April 1977

Ex-CIA man hints JFK knew of Castro plots

By David Nyhan
Globe Staff

A former Central Intelligence Agency official maintains that he "cannot conceive" that President John F. Kennedy was unaware of CIA plots to kill Cuban leader Fidel Castro.

Harry Rositzke said in an interview this week, "There was a great deal of discussion about assassinating Castro at the highest levels of the government" in the early 1960s.

"I left it at that" in the book, he said.

"The Attorney General (Robert F. Kennedy) knew about it. It's hard to use the word 'condoned' or 'approved,'" Rositzke said, because initial planning for the abortive Castro plots took place under the Eisenhower Administration.

"And I cannot conceive the Attorney General knowing about this without telling the President."

Rositzke, who retired in 1970 and is author of a book about the CIA, said speculation that some US officials may have been involved in attempts to aid in the assassination of President Kennedy is "one of the absolutely blatant false accusations ... there was no indication, no evidence of any sort."

He said it is clear now that Eisenhower ordered the assassination of African leader Patrice Lumumba, but that Lumumba was killed before US efforts could succeed.

"The Senate (intelligence committee) report found no documentary evidence that President Kennedy or Robert Kennedy knew of any CIA plans, with or without the use of the Mafia, to assassinate Castro. I talked to Sen. (Frank) Church about this, and he said, 'We put down the facts such as we had them, and it was up to the reader to determine whether or not they (the Kennedy brothers) did know.'"

Rositzke said, "My personal view, and I talked to many of the people connected with this, is that the circumstantial evidence makes it really quite clear that the Attorney General must have known about these matters, that he was, after the Bay of Pigs, in very close contact, in fact to a certain extent kind of running the CIA, at his brother's request."

Rositzke, who refused to reveal his last title at the CIA, said Robert Kennedy was socially friendly with Desmond Fitzgerald, a CIA official at the time, and that Fitzgerald was "highly accessible to the Administration."

Rositzke's book, "The CIA's Secret Operations: Espionage, Counterespionage, and Covert Action," Readers Digest Press, $12.95, has an introduction by Arthur Schlesinger Jr., a friend of Rositzke's since 1945, when the pair were at Harvard.

The introduction has Schlesinger calling the work "much more complete than any account available to the public ... absorbing."

Asked what Schlesinger thought of his theory that both Kennedy brothers knew of the Castro plots, Rositzke replied, "This is something obviously Arthur Schlesinger has a big fight with me about."

Schlesinger was an official of the Kennedy Administration.

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ON PAGE 1

HE NEW YORK TIMES
2 April 1977

WITNESS TIES OSWALD TO OILMEN AND CUBANS

Newsman Tells Panel That Suicide Had Related Conspiracy Story

By WENDELL RAWLS Jr.
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 1—A Dutch journalist said today he had told the House Assassinations Committee that the mysterious potential witness who allegedly committed suicide Tuesday had told him that Texas oilmen and anti-Castro Cubans had conspired with Lee Harvey Oswald to kill President Kennedy.

Willem Oltmans, a television newsman, was called before the panel after he said in various morning press and television interviews that the alleged conspiracy to assassinate President Kennedy involved not only Mr. Oswald but also George de Mohrenschildt, who apparently shot himself in Palm Beach, Fla.; the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Central Intelligence Agency, H. L. Hunt, the late Texas oil millionaire, and Mr. Oswald's assassin, Jack Ruby.

Found Him 'Very Specific'

Mr. Oltmans also gave hearsay testimony that there may have been a $50,000 contract out to kill Mr. Kennedy. He said he had met an oil worker who said he had been offered the contract.

After Mr. Oltmans testified, Representative Richardson Preyer, Democrat of North Carolina who is chairman of the subcommittee investigating the Kennedy assassination, was asked if he believed Mr. Oltmans's story.

"Ask me that question again in a few months," Mr. Preyer replied. "Mr. Oltmans was very specific on some things which can be corroborated, but not as clear on others."

An F.B.I. spokesman said that Mr. de Mohrenschildt had "been interviewed extensively by the F.B.I. and testified before the Warren Commission and all of his information was not pertinent to the assassination." He added:

"All the information coming from Mr. Oltmans about Mr. de Mohrenschildt is all new to su and probably all new to reality."

A source in the F.B.I. said that Mr. de Mohrenschildt had attempted suicide four times in the past six months before succeeding last Tuesday.

The committee met two weeks ago to discuss ways of winning enough Congressional and public support of its inquiry to keep the committee alive. Some of the methods discussed were public hearings featuring truculent witnesses and secret briefings that could generate publicity.

Declines to Disclose Evidence

Mr. Oltmans, who testified for three hours in closed session, later declined to tell newsmen what evidence he had to support his claim. But he said that he and Mr. de Mohrenschildt had been friends for about 10 years and that Mr. de Mohrenschildt had said he was a middle-man between Mr. Oswald and Mr. Hunt. He said that Mr. de Mohrenschildt told him that Cubans shot at Mr. Kennedy at the same time that Mr. Oswald did.

A spokesman for Ruth Hunt, Mr. Hunt's widow, his youngest son, Ray Hunt, and the Hunt estate said: "Any allegations by Willem Oltmans that H.L. Hunt was involved with Mr. de Mohrenschildt or Oswald in any way are figments of a strained and distorted imagination. It is ludicrous to state that H.L. Hunt had anything to do with the assassination of President Kennedy."

Mr. Oltmans said that he had given the assassination committee "the name of an F.B.I. official, not [the late director J. Edgar] Hoover, who might be important," and that he had given it a taped interview in which a Cuban exile named Loran Hall says he was offered $50,000 in the office of a Dallas oilman, Lester Logue, to kill President Kennedy.

Mr. Logue called the allegation "ridiculous," and said he would meet with his lawyers to discuss suing Mr. Oltmans for libel. He called Mr. Oltmans a "publicity psychopath," and said, "This just demonstrates the absolute power that the media has to destroy somebody without recourse."

The theory of Mr. Hunt's involvement has been advanced before but has never been corroborated. A spokesman for the Hunt family and estate said that they "have finally had about enough of such charges."

"It has been publicly recorded that Mr. de Mohrenschildt had a history of mental problems," the spokesman said. "If in fact Mr. de Mohrenschildt ever claimed to have had any relationship with H. L. Hunt, those claims must be viewed accordingly."

The commission headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren that investigated President Kennedy's assassination in 1963 concluded that Mr. Oswald was the lone assassin.

Earlier today, Mr. Oltmans said in an NBC radio interview that the reason the Cubans wanted to kill President Kennedy was that "they thought they had a blood debt to settle—they thought that President Kennedy had betrayed them at the Bay of Pigs." He said that Mr. De Mohrenschildt had told him he never knew, in fact, who killed Mr. Kennedy because an unspecified number of Cubans were supposed to be shooting at the same time Mr. Oswald did.

Mr. de Mohrenschildt, who was born in Russia, reportedly befriended Mr. Oswald and his wife, Marina, before the assassination. Mrs. Oswald also was Russian-born.

Mr. Oltmans said that Mr. de Mohrenschildt had told him that Mr. Oswald had acted at Mr. Mohrenschildt's guidance and instructions.

"Mr. de Mohrenschildt indicated to me very strongly that his ties upwards were towards H.L. Hunt and downstairs to Lee Harvey Oswald," Mr. Oltmans said in an ABC television interview.

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ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE 50
THE NEW YORK TIMES
4 April 1977

JFK Assassination

Assertions About Oswald Confronting House Group

By MARTIN WALDRON
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 3—Last Thursday, George de Mohrenschildt, a 65-year-old self-styled promoter who enjoyed the company of rich men and beautiful women and had a sometimes dangerous habit of sketching and photographing defense installations in various countries, was killed by a shotgun blast in Palm Beach, Fla.

His death, at the home of relatives of his daughter, Alexandra, was said by the police to be a suicide. Earlier, Mr. de Mohrenschildt had learned that a Congressional committee was prepared to investigate his connection with Lee Harvey Oswald, the accused assassin of President Kennedy. The following subsequent developments heightened public interest last week:

¶A Dutch reporter, Willem Oltmans, appearing before the House Select Committee on Assassinations, quoted Mr. De Mohrenschildt as having said that he had arranged for Mr. Oswald to kill the President and that the assassination had been instigated by Texas oilmen, including the late billionaire H.L. Hunt of Dallas.

¶A retired Texas newspaper editor, Penn Jones Jr., who has been fascinated by the Kennedy assassination for 13 years, released a copy of a letter to a "Mr. Hunt" asking for "information concerning my position." The letter, dated two weeks before President Kennedy was slain, was said to be from Mr. Oswald.

The House committee must establish whether there is any relevance or truth to these allegations if it is, once and for all, to explain President Kennedy's assassination and the 1968 murder of the Rev. Dr. Martin L. King Jr.

Hundreds of people claim a knowledge of the two murders. There have been allegations that President Kennedy and Dr. King were killed by the Central Intelligence Agency, the Federal Bureau of Investigation jealous husbands, Cubans, Vietnamese, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, gangsters, Texas oilmen and munitions makers.

Official investigations found that Mr. Oswald, acting alone, shot President Kennedy for complex personal reasons, and that James Earl Ray, an escaped convict, also acting alone and also for personal reasons, killed Dr. King.

Since its establishment last September, the special House committee has spent about $350,000. Staff members told the committee last month that there were "promising" new leads, but neither the de Mohrenschildt accusations nor the Hunt letter is new. None of the other "leads" described at a secret committee meeting appear to be new, either.

The "Hunt letter" first became known in the summer of 1975. A number of assassination students, most of them private citizens, got copies of it in the mail from Mexico City.

The letter has excited some interest in the last few days because Justice Department sources said the F.B.I. had confirmed that the letter was in Mr. Oswald's handwriting.

The 39-word letter was dated Nov. 8, 1963, two weeks before Mr. Kennedy was slain. Mr. Oswald was living in Dallas and working at the Texas Schoolbook Depository.

The letter said: "Dear Mr. Hunt, I would like information concerning my position. I am asking only for information. I am suggesting that we discuss the matter more fully before any steps are taken by me or anyone else. Thank you. Lee Harvey Oswald"

Mr. Jones said he received a photocopy of the handwritten letter in August or September, 1975, at his home in Midlothian, Texas, where he once ran a prize-winning weekly newspaper, The Midlothian Mirror.

Accompanying the photocopy was a typewritten note in Spanish, saying that the sender, who signed himself "P.S.," had sent a photocopy of the letter to the F.B.I. in late 1974 and had not heard from the bureau.

"Senor P.S." as he became known, also wrote that he feared something might happen to him and that he was going into hiding for a time. On the back of the envelope containing the photocopy and the note was a return address: "Insurgentes Sud, No. 309, Mexico, Df, Mexico."

Number 309 South Insurgentes in Mexico City is a four-story white stone apartment house containing a number of lower-middle-class flats. On the first floor of the building are two low-quality clothing stores and a small shop selling national lottery tickets.

Mr. Jones said that he gave his copy of the "Hunt letter" to The Dallas Morning News last month. The newspaper reported that it had had the letter analyzed by three independent handwriting experts who, like the F.B.I., concluded that it had been written by Mr. Oswald. The experts said they had compared the letter with others known to have been written by Oswald.

There was no indication of how "Senor P.S." had come into possession of the Oswald letter.

Harold Weisberg of Frederick, Md., a former Senate investigator who has devoted the past 12 years to researching the Kennedy and King murders, said he got a copy of the letter in the mail in August 1975, as did Howard Roffman of Gainesville, Fla., a law school graduate.

Letters Unanswered

Mr. Weisberg and Mr. Jones said they had written o he address on the envelope and had not received answers, though their letters were not returned as undelivered.

The family of Mr. Hunt, who died Nov. 29, 1974, has protested published assertions that the letter was written to him.

In 1964, the F.B.I. checked the Hunt family in connection with he Kennedy assassination, but no member of the family testified before the commission headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren, which investigated the assassination. Several of Mr. Hunt's sons have called "ridiculous" the notion that any of the Hunts had been connected with the murder.

An associate of the Hunt family said yesterday that H.L. Hunt and members of his family "are not the only Hunts around."

"Wasn't there a Hunt connected with the C.I.A. back in 1963?" he asked.

There has been no evidence linking E. Howard Hunt, a C.I.A. agent who was involved in the Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba in 1961, to Mr. Oswald. Mr. Hunt has just been released from Federal prison; he had been convicted of complicity in the burglary of the Democratic National Committee Headquarters at the,

continued

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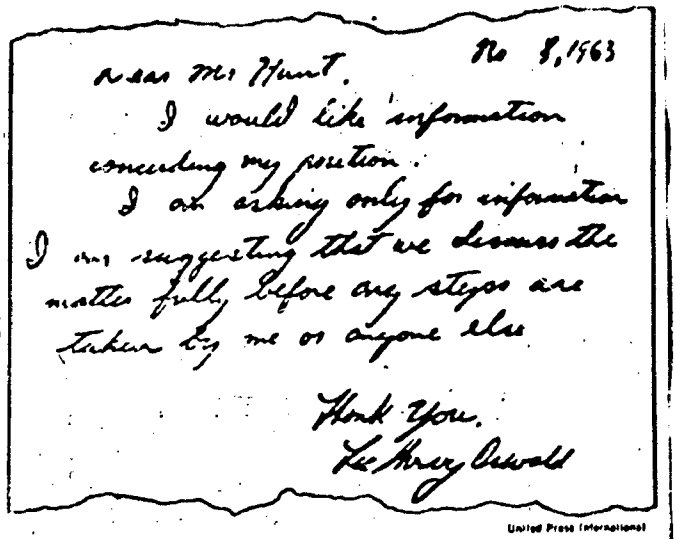

Dear Mr. Hunt. No 8, 1963

I would like information concerning my position.

I am asking only for information I am suggesting that we discuss the matter fully before any steps are taken by me or anyone else.

Thank You.
Lee Harvey Oswald

United Press International

Copy of letter reportedly written by Lee Harvey Oswald to a "Mr. Hunt" two weeks before the assassination of President Kennedy.

Watergate Hotel in Washington in 1972.

The Oswald "Hunt letter" aroused still more interest after Mr. de Mohrenschildt's death, when Mr. Oltmans came forward to say publicly that Mr. de Mohrenschildt had linked H.L. Hunt to Mr. Oswald.

Relatives and associates of Mr. de Mohrenschildt said he was hospitalized recently for treatment of mental disorders, including paranoia, and tried to kill himself several times previously.

The House Assassinations Committee had heard part of the de Mohrenschildt story from Mr. Oltmans last month and had been searching for him to ask him to testify.

Mr. de Mohrenschildt died after he learned last week that a committee investigator had gone to Palm Beach to talk to him.

The authorities in the Florida city said that Mr. de Mohrenschildt had left a number of personal papers but that none of them seemed to be connected in any way to Mr. Oswald or the Kennedy administration.

Mr. de Mohrenschildt's daughter, Alexandra Taylor, whom he was visiting at the time of his death, said her father was "mentally and physically afraid" of Mr. Oltmans.

The Texan had gone to Amsterdam with Mr. Oltmans earlier last month. He tried to sell a book manuscript on the Kennedy slaying and appeared on television with Mr. Oltmans there.

"He felt he had been drugged in Amsterdam," Mrs. Taylor said. She also reported that her father had been mentally ill recently.

Treated for Paranoia

Other associates of Mr. de Mohrenschildt reported that he was treated for for paranoia for some weeks in Dallas earlier this year. He was a teacher at a small school in Dallas, Bishop College.

During his adventurous life, Mr. de Mohrenschildt had many careers: perfume salesman, oil geologist, polo player, Polish cavalry officer, movie producer and, many believed, spy.

At one point in World War II, Mr. de Mohrenschildt was suspected of spying by both the United States and Mexico and was detained and questioned in both countries.

The United States incident came after he and Lilia Pardo Larin, then his mistress, were observed photographing and sketching the beachfront near Corpus Christi, Texas.

Mr. de Mohrenschildt told the Warren Commission in April 1964 that he had not realized the area he was sketching had defense fortifications. He said he resented having been considered a German spy.

Later in World War II he was expelled from Mexico, but he said that was because a high-ranking Mexican official wanted to steal Mrs. Larin from him, that it had no connection with his being suspected of espionage.

In 1957, soldiers fired on Mr. De Mohrenschildt and his fourth wife, Jeanne, as they sketched and took photographs of a Yugoslav beach while sitting in a boat. "The little island we thought was completely empty, not a soul on it, they had fortifications on that island," Mrs. de Mohrenschildt told the Warren Commission.

The de Mohrenschildts testified before the commission after they had been investigated for weeks by dozens of F.B.I. agents.

The commission was interested in the de Mohrenschildts because they were friendly with the Oswalds. The de Mohrenschildts said they had met the Oswalds through the Russian-speaking community in Dallas and had felt sorry for Marina Oswald, whom Mr. Oswald met and married while in Russia in the early 1960's.

In April 1963, the de Mohrenschildts went to Haiti, where he tried to promote a deal with the government of the late President Francois Duvalier to search for oil and minerals. They were still living in Haiti when Mr. Kennedy was killed.

The Warren Commission and the F.B.I. concluded that there was no evidence to suggest that the de Mohrenschildts had had any connection with the assassination.

Mr. De Mohrenschildt told the commission that he was not sure Mr. Oswald had killed President Kennedy and that Mr. Oswald had not seemed inclined to political violence. Mr. de Mohrenschildt told the commission:

"In my opinion, if Lee Oswald did kill the President, this might be the reason for it: That he was insanely jealous of an extraordinarily successful man, who was young, attractive, had a beautiful wife, had all the money in the world and was a world figure. And poor Oswald was just the opposite. He had nothing. He had a bitchy wife, had no money, was a miserable failure in everything he did."

An accidentally released transcript of a secret meeting of the House Assassination Committee on March 17 disclosed that much of the information the committee "uncovered" in its six months of operation has been available for years

NEW YORK TIMES DATE JAN 77 PAGE 8/28

ADVOCATE ASSASSINATIONS

20733

A 'McCarthy Era' Tactic in the Assassination Committee

By James Hamilton

WASHINGTON—The House Select Committee on Assassinations made a grandstand play last month that was reminiscent of the McCarthy era.

Having an indication beforehand that he would invoke his Fifth Amendment privilege against self-incrimination, the committee called the onetime head of gambling operations in Cuba and reputed Mafia chieftain Santos Trafficante Jr. to a public hearing and repeatedly—14 times—questioned him about any advance knowledge he may have had of the assassination of John F. Kennedy or plans to kill Fidel Castro. Each time, Mr. Trafficante refused to testify on constitutional grounds. (He is the only survivor among three underworld figures described in earlier Congressional testimony as being enlisted by the Central Intelligence Agency in 1960 to kill Mr. Castro.)

Mr. Trafficante's public assertion of his privilege in response to all 14 questions did result in heightened public curiosity and dilllation. But if any legitimate legislative function was served by his public appearance, it is not apparent.

It seems, however, that some committee members were happy with the Trafficante display, perhaps hoping that it might save their trouble-plagued investigation from extinction by the full House. One committee member, Representative Robert W. Edgar, Democrat of Pennsylvania, reportedly suggested that a similar tactic be used again.

Such spectacles were commonplace during the loyalty investigations at midcentury. Individuals taking the Fifth Amendment to questions about Communist backgrounds were hauled forth to do so in public; those admitting past Communist connections were allowed to confess in private session. Senator William E. Jenner's Internal Security Subcommittee was particularly guilty of this abuse.

Compare the practice of Senator Sam J. Ervin's Watergate committee. Those claiming their privilege—for example, Charles W. Colson and G. Gordon Liddy—were allowed to do so privately. It would have been great theater, with the country spellbound by every Watergate event, to parade tough-guy Colson and the enigmatic Liddy before television cameras to let the world hear their refusals to testify. But no legislative purpose would have been served by such display.

Generally speaking, a legislative inquiry is justified only if it produces facts that help formulate legislative judgments or if it informs the public of shortcomings in government or other areas of society where there is a legitimate Federal interest. Clearly, to call to public session an individual a committee knows will take the Fifth promotes neither the lawmaking nor the informing function.

In many instances, the chief result is shame and stigma that may haunt a witness for many years. But punishment, as the United States Supreme Court has said, is not a proper goal of a legislative investigation (except in disciplinary proceedings for violation of Congressional rules). Congress is not generally empowered to conduct legislative trials.

Few tears have been shed for Mr. Trafficante. His past is unsavory and his lawyer, invoking a little-used House rule, exorcised the television cameras before Mr. Trafficante asserted his privilege. Moreover, according to several committee staff members, Mr. Trafficante did not ask to testify in private session and perhaps was overjoyed that the mob knew his lip was firmly buttoned. Better a little public opprobrium than an unscheduled trip to the ocean bottom.

Nonetheless, it is important, now that the assassination committee's mandate has been extended by the House, to call attention to this unjustified tactic. The committee's work is too important to have its investigations lapse into gimmickry.

Unless the committee demonstrates that it can conduct its inquiries with prudence and fairness — even where questionable individuals are involved — it will not regain the public esteem and confidence lost during the embarrassing bickering between its erstwhile chief counsel, Richard A. Sprague, and former chairman, Representative Henry B. Gonzalez.

James Hamilton, formerly assistant chief counsel to the Senate Watergate committee, is author of "The Power to Probe: A Study of Congressional Investigations."

Jack Anderson and Les Whitten

JFK Data Quashed, Memo Says

A confidential House memo accuses the FBI and CIA of "a serious suppression of evidence which was vital to this country's investigation" of the 1963 assassination of President Kennedy.

A House Assassinations subcommittee "has uncovered a good deal of information which suggests that Lee Harvey Oswald was associated with one or both of these organizations," the memo says.

It charges bluntly "that both the CIA and FBI intentionally withheld relevant information from the Warren Commission and in at least one instance, provided the commission with information known to be false."

The memo accuses the FBI of withholding 23 Oswald files from the commission. The FBI "was in possession of 69 pre-assassination files on Lee Harvey Oswald," states the memo. "However, of these files, only 46 were turned over to the commission."

The information that allegedly was withheld was contradictory. On one hand, the CIA suppressed facts suggesting that Cuba's Fidel Castro may have retaliated against President Kennedy after learning about the CIA's plot against his own life. But on the other hand, the CIA allegedly covered up evidence linking Oswald to CIA-sponsored, anti-Castro Cubans.

The House memo draws no conclusion about the Kennedy killing. But it lays out the evidence that the committee has gathered thus far. Here are the highlights:

• The CIA did not disclose to the Warren Commission that it had been trying to knock off Fidel Castro at the time Kennedy was shot. Killers from the Havana underworld, controlled by mobster Santos Trafficante, were used in the plot against the Cuban premier. The mobster who directed the attempt on Castro's life, John Roselli, hinted privately that the same killers had been caught by Castro and had been turned against Kennedy. Interestingly enough, a Cuban exile, according to the memo, quoted Trafficante as saying "that Kennedy was going to be hit."

• Roselli had also suggested that the mob had ordered Jack Ruby to kill Oswald to prevent any disclosure of the Trafficante connection. One of Ruby's underworld associates, the memo reports, "indicates that in 1959 Jack Ruby traveled to Cuba and visited Santos Trafficante in jail." The same source also reported that "Ruby and Roselli had meetings in Miami several months prior to the assassination."

• A witness had told committee investigators that Ruby introduced her to Oswald at a Dallas nightclub two weeks before the assassination. She "had been afraid to come forth with her information," according to the memo, because another woman disappeared after she mentioned seeing Oswald at Ruby's nightclub. But the long-silent witness "is now willing to testify."

• The Warren Commission met behind closed doors on Jan. 27, 1964, to discuss "evidence" that Oswald had been a $200-a-month FBI informant up to the time of the assassination. The evidence came from two "independent" and "reliable" sources. The commission's general counsel, J. Lee Rankin, took this up with the late FBI director J. Edgar Hoover, who categorically denied any relationship between Oswald and the FBI. Reports the memo: "The Warren Commission decided that rather than embarrass J. Edgar Hoover and the FBI they would not pursue the evidence."

• A Dallas woman, named Sylvia Odio, reported that she had been visited by anti-Castro Cubans. They introduced her to an American, whom she later recognized as Oswald. The Cubans told her that the American was trying to persuade anti-Castro groups "to kill President Kennedy because of Kennedy's reaction to the Bay of Pigs invasion." Not long afterward, Kennedy was shot. But the FBI misrepresented the woman's story to the Warren Commission, the memo alleges. This report "of what the bureau knew to be patently false," declares the memo, "requires further investigation."

• The memo cites photographs and stories linking Oswald to members of a paramilitary, anti-Castro unit known as the "No Name Key Group." Some of the photos show "CIA agents assigned to train the Cuban exiles and soldiers of fortune." Some members of the group were traced to Dallas shortly before the Kennedy assassination.

Footnote: FBI Director Clarence M. Kelley has told us that all 69 summaries were provided to the commission. Kelley also said the bureau furnished the commission with all pertinent information about potential informants, including the Cuban Sylvia Odio. The CIA had not commented by the time we went to print.

[redacted] Re the Sylvia Odio bit, I believe you will find that one of Hemmings men, Loran Eugene HALL was involved. Re Ruby's visit with Trafficante in jail in Cuba, I believe you will find that HALL was Trafficante's Cell mate at that time. [redacted] 19750

4/19/77

ARTICLE APPEARED ON PAGE 20

TIME
11 APRIL 1977

TV NEWSMAN WILLEM OLTMANS

THE DE MOHRENSCHILDTS IN 1974

CONGRESS

Assassination: Now a Suicide Talks

"Let's face it. I only made up the story about Lee Harvey Oswald because everybody makes a million dollars off the Kennedy assassination, and I haven't made anything. So now it's my time."
—George de Mohrenschildt, quoted by Willem Oltmans

That grotesque confession should be sufficient to discredit the man who made it, a Russian-born teacher and friend of Lee Harvey Oswald's named George de Mohrenschildt. But nothing ever seems sufficient to still Kennedy assassination stories, time and events merely complicate them. Last week, only an hour after a congressional investigator asked to meet with him in Manalapan, Fla., De Mohrenschildt apparently committed suicide by putting a 20-gauge shotgun in his mouth and pulling the trigger. Suddenly there was intense interest in what he might have told the investigator. Sure enough, within 48 hours, a world-traveling Dutch TV newsman, Willem Oltmans, showed up to reveal to a closed session of the House Select Committee on Assassinations—plus ABC, NBC and CBS—what De Mohrenschildt had been telling him during the several years of their acquaintance.

Oltmans' testimony—given under oath—was sensational stuff. De Mohrenschildt, said Oltmans, claimed he had been the middleman in a conspiracy of rich Texas oilmen, headed by the late H.L. Hunt, and anti-Castro Cubans to kill Kennedy. Oswald was one gunman, but supposedly several Cubans were also assigned to shoot the President. One could even be identified. Oltmans provided the committee with a picture of a Cuban whom he said fired shots at Kennedy. But apart from the dramatic backdrop provided by De Mohrenschildt's suicide, the story was just another series of rumors that could not be corroborated.

At the time of the Kennedy assassination, De Mohrenschildt was an oil geologist employed by the U.S. State Department in Haiti. He had known Oswald for a year (they were members of a Russian-speaking group in Dallas), and he told the Warren Commission in 1964 that he knew nothing of Oswald's role in the Kennedy killing. But during a series of meetings with Oltmans beginning in 1966, De Mohrenschildt began to remember things differently. By 1975, during an interview with Oltmans on Dutch television, he insisted that Oswald was led by others. Oltmans told colleagues, "De Mohrenschildt knows a lot more than he is willing to say right now." Later De Mohrenschildt was to go so far as to say he felt "responsible" for Oswald's behavior.

In February of this year, De Mohrenschildt told Oltmans he was ready to disclose more but only outside the U.S. He feared for his life in America. By now De Mohrenschildt seemed depressed. He had been hospitalized as a psychiatric patient for two months at the end of last year and he had twice attempted suicide. Said Patrick Russell, his Dallas attorney: "He began to have bizarre hallucinations and distortions. He believed people were following him."

According to Oltmans, De Mohrenschildt would vacillate between claiming his conspiracy tale was a hoax and asserting it was true. In addition to De Mohrenschildt's instability, doubts are thrown on his story by a review of Warren Commission testimony that shows De Mohrenschildt last saw Oswald six months before the assassination. "It is absolutely out of the question that De Mohrenschildt had anything to do with Kennedy's death," fumes Chicago Attorney Albert Jenner, who interviewed De Mohrenschildt for the Warren Commission. Adds Jenner of the House Assassination Committee's entire performance: "Utterly disgusting."

The committee members who heard Oltmans' testimony took a wait-and-see attitude. "I think he is telling the truth as he perceives it," said D.C. Delegate Walter Fauntroy. Oltmans himself cited an obviously disturbing aspect of his charges. Asked a tough question during a television interview, he replied, "Well, I'm quoting Mr. De Mohrenschildt, so that makes it very easy." De Mohrenschildt being in no position to amend the record.

Oltmans' testimony was only the climax in a hectic week during which the House Select Committee on Assassinations barely escaped its own death by sacrificing its controversial counsel, Richard Sprague. The outspoken ex-district attorney from Philadelphia had angered too many Congressmen with his demands for a $13 million budget and a staff of 175 for the two-year investigation (TIME, Jan. 10).

Too Raw. With Sprague out of the way, the House was willing to vote 230 to 191 to continue the investigations on a reduced annual budget of $2.8 million. But Sprague's departure left the committee staff demoralized and committee members full of praise for their former counsel. Cushed Illinois Republican John Anderson: "He laid himself on the altar of sacrifice."

To date, no firm fruits of Sprague's early work have reached the public. Nevertheless, a rush of rumor, innuendo and unconfirmed leads has blazed from the committee. The latest concerns a letter the DA is investigating said to have been written by Oswald to a "Mr. Hunt" asking about "my position." It is dated 14 days before the Kennedy assassination. The committee's operation has outraged many Congressmen. Snarled Michigan's John Dingell: "They tell us they have persuasive evidence. What they have is a lot of crap."

Even Richard Sprague hit a cautious note before resigning. "The only things that [the staff] can say of significance are things that are too raw and uncorroborated for us to be stating publicly."

20748

House Assassinations

[redacted]

NEWS SERVICE

Date. 11 Apr
Item No. 4
Ref. No.

DISTRIBUTION II
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U W BYLCZCVYX
&BC-ASSASSINATIONS; 4TH
&URGENT
&BY JIM ADAMS
&ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP) - FORMER HOUSE ASSASSINATIONS COUNSEL RICHARD A. SPRAGUE TODAY QUOTED JAMES EARL RAY AS SAYING OTHER PEOPLE WERE INVOLVED IN A CONSPIRACY IN WHICH MARTIN LUTHER KING WAS ASSASSINATED.

SPRAGUE ALSO SAID HE HAS CONCLUDED FROM RAY'S STATEMENTS THAT ''RAOUL;'' A MAN RAY HAS CLAIMED ENLISTED HIM IN A GUN-RUNNING OPERATION THAT PUT HIM IN MEMPHIS WHEN KING WAS KILLED; IS A FICTITIOUS NAME.

RAY; WHO PLEADED GUILTY TO KING'S MURDER AND IS SERVING A 99-YEAR SENTENCE; HAS CONTENDED THAT THE OPERATION DIRECTED BY ''RAOUL'' HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH KING; SO FAR AS HE KNEW.

RAY CONTENDS HE PURCHASED THE RIFLE THAT POLICE BELIEVE WAS USED TO KILL KING BUT HANDED IT TO ''RAOUL'' AND LEFT THE AREA SHORTLY BEFORE THE ASSASSINATION.

SPRAGUE ALSO SAID SOME FEDERAL INVESTIGATORS BELIEVE THE MAN THE CIA RECORDED CONTACTING SOVIET AND CUBAN EMBASSIES IN MEXICO CITY BEFORE PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY WAS ASSASSINATED WAS NOT LEE HARVEY OSWALD.

SPRAGUE SAID HE DOES NOT BELIEVE THE HOUSE ASSASSINATIONS COMMITTEE CAN CONDUCT A PROPER INVESTIGATION OF THE TWO ASSASSINATIONS AND SAID HE DOUBTS IT EVEN WANTS TO.

HE SAID A SPECIAL PROSECUTOR SHOULD BE SET UP WITH AN INDEPENDENT STAFF TO INVESTIGATE THE ASSASSINATIONS; WITHOUT THE PRESSURE HE SAID THE HOUSE COMMITTEE STAFF WAS UNDER TO PRODUCE SOMETHING SENSATIONAL.

SPRAGUE SAID HE BELIEVES THE COMMITTEE WAS SET UP BEFORE THE ELECTION TO APPEAL TO BLACK VOTERS UNHAPPY WITH INADEQUATE INVESTIGATION OF THE KING ASSASSINATION. HE SAID THE PANEL WAS ESTABLISHED WITH THE IDEA THAT IT MIGHT BE SCRAPPED AFTER THE ELECTION.

20736

[illegible] TO BE [illegible] THE PRESS RELEASE.

[illegible] BECAUSE RAY HAS EXPRESSED PERSISTENT [illegible] THEY SAW AS HIS WISHING TO A FELD TAFT FORCE FORMER CHAIRMAN [illegible] GONZALEZ) D-TEX.) TO RESIGN.

SPRAGUE QUOTED RAY AS SAYING IN THE TWO INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED BY COMMITTEE INVESTIGATORS THAT PEOPLE OTHER THAN MEMBERS OF RAY'S FAMILY HELPED HIM OBTAIN A WEAPON TO ESCAPE FROM A MISSOURI PRISON BEFORE THE ASSASSINATION.

RAY SAYS HE CONTACTED OTHER PEOPLE AFTER THE ASSASSINATION) AND THAT OTHER PEOPLE HELPED HIM TO ESCAPE TO CANADA) WHERE HE TRAVELED BEFORE HE WENT TO GREAT BRITAIN) WHERE HE WAS ARRESTED.

RAY HAS NOT YET DESCRIBED THE OTHER PEOPLE EXCEPT TO SAY THEY ARE NOT HIS BROTHERS) SPRAGUE SAID. THE INVESTIGATOR SAID IT HAS BECOME CLEAR PARTLY THROUGH RAY'S OWN COMMENTS AND PARTLY THROUGH WHAT THE INVESTIGATORS COULD PERCEIVE THEMSELVES THAT THE NAME ''KROUL'' IS MADE UP.

SPRAGUE SAID THAT NAME WAS MADE UP BY SOMEONE ELSE AND RAY RELUCTANTLY USED IT.

IN THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION INVESTIGATION) SPRAGUE SAID) FBI INVESTIGATORS DOUBT THAT THE VOICE THE CIA RECORDED CONTACTING THE SOVIET AND CUBAN EMBASSIES IN MEXICO CITY BEFORE THE ASSASSINATION IS THAT OF OSWALD.

SPRAGUE SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT IT WOULD MEAN IF) IN FACT) THE VOICE THE CIA SAID WAS THAT OF OSWALD WAS NOT OSWALD. THE WARREN COMMISSION CONCLUDED THAT OSWALD ASSASSINATED KENNEDY ACTING ALONE.

''THERE WELL COULD HAVE BEEN A CONSPIRACY THAT AROSE AFTER THE ASSASSINATION) THAT CERTAIN AGENCIES FELT IT WOULD BE AN EMBARRASSMEN TO DISCLOSE RELATIONSHIPS WITH OSWALD;'' SPRAGUE SAID. ''I DON'T KNOW.''

HE SAID THAT CIA TAPE-RECORDINGS OF THE MAN WHO CONTACTED THE SOVIET AND CUBAN EMBASSIES WERE ERASED BEFORE THE ASSASSINATION TO BE USED TO RECORD SOMETHING ELSE.

BUT HE SAID PEOPLE WHO HEARD THEM AND KNEW OSWALD'S VOICE SAY THE MAN RECORDED WAS NOT OSWALD.

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Union Calendar No. 901

94th Congress, 2d Session - - - - - - - - House Rept. No. 94-1781

REPORT

TOGETHER WITH

ADDITIONAL AND SUPPLEMENTAL VIEWS

OF THE

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 31, 1976.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

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94TH CONGRESS } HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES { REPORT
2d Session } { No. 94-1781

RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

DECEMBER 31, 1976.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. DOWNING, from the Select Committee on Assassinations submitted the following

REPORT

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS,
Washington, D.C., December 31, 1976.

Hon. EDMUND L. HENSHAW, Jr.,
Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. HENSHAW: On behalf of the House Select Committee on Assassinations and pursuant to the mandate of House Resolution 1540, I am transmitting herewith to the House of Representatives the report of the committee representing the results of the committee's investigation and study since its inception on September 17, 1976. The report includes the recommendations of the committee with respect to continued investigation by the House of Representatives of the assassinations of John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr.

I would like, at this time, to express the deep appreciation of the committee to the committee staff for its excellent work on this phase of the Select Committee's investigation.

I note, on my retirement from the House of Representatives, the fine start which has been made on this investigation, for whose initiation I have worked over the past years. It is my sincere hope that the House will see fit to proceed with the investigation in the same thorough and professional manner in which it has begun.

Sincerely,

THOMAS N. DOWNING,
Chairman.

Enclosure: Report.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Twelve years have passed since the Warren Commission released its report finding that Lee Harvey Oswald was the sole assassin of President John F. Kennedy.

Eight years have passed since Judge W. Preston Battle of the Shelby County, Tenn., Criminal Court accepted James Earl Ray's plea of guilty to the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The passage of time has not healed the national trauma caused by these assassinations. In the ensuing years, old doubts have remained and new disturbing questions have been raised as additional evidence has come to light.

The following are just a few examples of these new issues:

(1) Did the Central Intelligence Agency deliberately avoid furnishing critical information to the Federal Bureau of Investigation which would have resulted in the surveillance of Lee Harvey Oswald prior to the assassination of President Kennedy? If so, why?

(2) Was critical evidence withheld from the Warren Commission? If so, why?

The U.S. Senate Select Committee to Study Governmental Operations, in a report released April 23, 1976, concluded that the performance of U.S. intelligence agencies was defective both with respect to the investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy as well as the reporting to the Warren Commission. That report states in part:

> In the days following the assassination of President Kennedy, nothing was more important to this country than to determine the facts of his death; no one single event has shaken the country more. Yet the evidence the Committee has developed suggests that, for different reasons, both the CIA and the FBI failed in, or avoided carrying out, certain of their responsibilities in this matter.
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> * * * * * * *
>
> The Committee emphasizes that it has not uncovered any evidence sufficient to justify a conclusion that there was a conspiracy to assassinate President Kennedy. The Committee, has, however, developed evidence which impeaches the process by which the intelligence agencies arrived at their own conclusions about the assassination, and by which they provided information to the Warren Commission. *This evidence indicates that the investigation of the assassination was deficient and that facts which might have substantially effected the course of the investigation were not provided the Warren Commission or those individuals within the FBI and CIA, as well as other agencies of Government who were charged with investigating the assassination.* (Emphasis supplied.)

(3) There are reports of intensive surveillance of Dr. Martin Luther King by domestic intelligence agencies, including the FBI. Who and where were these agents at the time of Dr. King's assassination? Do they have any evidence concerning the assassination or any plans to commit it? Was this surveillance deliberately curtailed prior to the assassination? And, if so, why?

(4) There are reports that there were unusual transfers of personnel by the Memphis Fire and Police Departments on April 3 and April 4, 1968, which may or may not have affected the security of Dr. King. If so, why were these transfers made and at whose direction?

Over the years repeated disclosures of agency misconduct, foreign assassination attempts, concealed information, destruction of evidence and possible deliberate misinformation have fostered among our citizens an ensuing lack of confidence in Government agencies.

As a result, there has been a growing sense of national concern about the adequacy and integrity of the original investigations. The history of these assassinations has demonstrated that the passage of more time will only increase that concern, and only a thorough and definitive inquiry at this time will resolve the growing doubts.

On September 17, 1976, the House of Representatives rose to this challenge. It created the Select Committee on Assassinations (H. Res. 1540) with the mandate to conduct a "full and complete investigation of the circumstances surrounding the death of John F. Kennedy and the death of Martin Luther King, Jr., and of any others the Select Committee shall determine."

The members of the Select Committee recognized the need to resolve certain preliminary matters in the 3 months remaining before the close of the 94th Congress. With a realistic appraisal of the task in mind, staffing and budget levels were determined. Threshold investigative inquiries were begun. With the advent of the new Congress the committee is now prepared to proceed with the investigation.

The committee undertook ist legislative mandate with the recognition of its responsibility to the American public. The purpose of this mandate is to investigate and provide the facts relating to both assassinations and to do so in a manner which will be credible, professional, ethical and will reflect well on the integrity of Congress.

Pursuant to this mandate, the committee will make recommendations regarding the adequacy of existing laws relating to the assassination of the President of the United States, conspiracy, deprivation of civil rights, and the investigatory authority and capability of agencies and departments of the United Sthtes government.

The committee has received widespread support for this legislative investigation. An assistant counsel to the Warren Commission, citing recent disclosures of documents which were withheld from the Warren Commission, strongly urged the reopening to the investigation. He stressed that "the conduct of the Commission and of the agencies upon which it relied should be carefully examined and any new information be fully pursued."

The important questions, he said, are "not only how and why President Kennedy was assassinated, but how such events can be effectively investigated." He was joined by another assistant counsel to the Warren Commission who has endorsed "a full and thorough investigation of both assassinations."

In the case of the King assassination, the committee was provided with the results of a 1975 investigation conducted by the Atlanta, Ga., Bureau of Police Services. The report states in part: "* * * even a cursory examination of certain information presented to us elicits some very interesting series of coincidences which would appear to merit investigation by appropriate agencies." The report urges that a new investigation be undertaken in order to reach "a more definitive position on the circumstances surrounding the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr."

II. THE COMMITTEE'S INITIAL ACTIONS

The committee's first task was the selection and appointment of a chief counsel and director.

The committee obtained the services of Richard A. Sprague. Mr. Sprague served as First Assistant District Attorney of Philadelphia, Pa., from June 1966, until December 1974. He has represented the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as prosecuting attorney in more than 10,000 criminal trials. Serving as Special Prosecutor for Washington County, Pa., he was responsible for the investigation and subsequent prosecution of the Yablonski murder cases. As Special Assistant to the Attorney General of the United States, he was responsible for the conviction of W. A. "Tony" Boyle, the deposed president of the United Mine Workers.

The committee considered the necessity of moving expeditiously on both investigations. It felt that new evidence pertaining to either the Kennedy or King assassination should be pursued immediately, that further delay would be unwarranted.

Thus, the committee decided to pursue each investigation simultaneously. It organized itself into two subcommittees: one, chaired by Walter E. Fauntroy to direct the King investigation; the other, chaired by Richardson Preyer to pursue the Kennedy probe. All members of the Full Committee will be active in both investigations.

The committee agreed upon the need for a staff of 170. This figure provides for two investigative teams of approximately 15 attorneys and 25 investigators each. It is the intention of the committee to recruit the best talent within this Nation. The committee believes it can attract dedicated professionals in the field of criminal investigation with broad experience and ability, who will view this call as a professional challenge as well as an opportunity for public service. Substantial progress has been made in this area.

Finally, the committee decided unanimously not to conduct the investigations under deadlines. One reason for this is to avoid a situation where an agency, individual or group might engage in delaying tactics in an attempt to outlast the committee.

The Warren Commission, which was under intense pressure to resolve the question of responsibility for the Kennedy assassination quickly, produced its final report within 10 months. That Commission did not have an independent investigative staff and conducted its proceedings in closed hearings. These factors, which may or may not have influenced the outcome of the Commission's investigation, have nevertheless contributed to the increasing challenges to that Commission's conclusions.

With the passage of time since the original investigations, there is no longer the pressure to arrive at quick conclusions. The Select Committee, with the advantage of hindsight, with independent investigators, and without artificial deadlines, will conduct the full, dispassionate, and comprehensive investigation that is necessary.

To the extent that it does not impede or impair the integrity of the investigation, the committee intends to hold open hearings. These sessions will be held as the investigations lead to verifiable conclusions, which either prove or disprove prior findings or allegations. In observing the various witnesses and being able to observe their demeanor and judge their credibility, the American public will have a greater basis for confidence in ultimate conclusions. These sessions will also enable the public to observe the investigation as it unfolds.

III. PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION AND ANALYSES

In the 3 months since its establishment the Select Committee has initiated preliminary investigations into new and previously unpursued leads in both assassinations. While we cannot yet verify the results of our preliminary investigations, we can provide two examples which are representative of the investigative activity that the committee has undertaken.

On November 26, 1976, committee staff questioned extensively an ex-CIA agent regarding his personal knowledge of conversations between Lee Harvey Oswald and personnel within the Soviet and Cuban Embassies in Mexico City.

As a result of the initial questioning, members of the Kennedy Subcommittee held an executive session on November 27. Based on information obtained during the hearing, staff members were dispatched to Mexico where they located and interviewed new witnesses. These witnesses had never been sought out before by any investigative body, notwithstanding the fact that they had important information concerning statements by Lee Harvey Oswald in Mexico within 60 days of the assassination of President Kennedy.

With respect to the assassination of Dr. King, committee counsel obtained relevant information from a witness who had never been interviewed before by any investigative agency. This witness has stated that James Earl Ray related to him the fact that after Ray fled to Europe, Ray contacted another person from whom he received further instructions to aid in his continuing flight.

In other areas of inquiry, committee staff has interviewed persons with new relevant information who had never been contacted by any investigative agency. The committee intends to continue to pursue such information.

In addition to pursuing other new investigative leads, the committee has been conducting an intensive analysis of the evidence available in both assassinations in order to define and determine the nature and scope of the inquiry.

With respect to the Kennedy investigation, the chief counsel presented the committee with a list of hundreds of questions which must be resolved. The committee also has identified several hundred witnesses who must be interviewed.

The committee has taken positive steps to insure that it will preserve all relevant material in the possession of investigative agencies. It has

issued several subpenas duces tecum to insure evidence will be made available. The committee has been informed that the Central Intelligence Agency alone is in possession of more than 60 cartons of materials relating to the assassination of President Kennedy and the activities of Lee Harvey Oswald prior to that assassination.

With respect to the assassination of Dr. King, the committee's initial examination of the events and circumstances during the period of James Earl Ray's escape from prison in Missouri in 1967 until his capture and subsequent extradition from England in 1968 gave rise to hundreds of questions. The committee has completed a detailed analysis of the stipulations of fact contained in the guilty plea of Ray in March 1969. The committee noted that during the course of the plea proceedings, Ray rose to advise the court that he did not concur with statements made by both the State prosecutor and his own attorney, that there had not been a conspiracy to assassinate Dr. King.

The committee does not mean to imply that there was or was not a conspiracy. It merely indicates that this is one of the areas which requires further investigation, especially in view of the failure to obtain a full statement of involvement from Ray by the Tennessee authorities.

Two staff members of the Select Committee traveled to Memphis, Tenn., and compiled a 76-page index of materials contained in only one of the evidentiary files. The Federal Bureau of Investigation has advised committee staff that it has more than 80 volumes of materials on the assassination and subsequent investigation into that assassination.

To insure the preservation of certain evidence and documents the Select Committee voted and issued a total of 12 subpenas duces tecum related to evidence in the assassination of Dr. King.

The Select Committee is cognizant of the significant accomplishments of other independent investigations by the Congress. A quantum of evidence relevant to our investigations has been accumulated by various committees and select committees of the House of Representatives and the Senate. To date, contacts by committee staff have demonstrated a willingness on the part of both Houses of Congress, their Members and various committees to cooperate in making those materials available to this committee.

On the basis of these numerous areas of inquiry and the necessity to preserve evidence already under subpena, the Select Committee unanimously recommends to the 95th Congress that the Select Committee on Assassinations be immediately reestablished to continue the investigation.

IV. STAFF AND BUDGET REQUIREMENTS

The committee wishes to emphasize that the unprecedented nature of the task identified in House Resolution 1540 makes past methods of determining the Select Committee's budget inappropriate.

The committee feels strongly that the integrity of this investigation is contingent upon the independence of our investigative efforts. The executive branch agencies, which were utilized in the past, are the very agencies whose previous performance may be the subject of a part of this investigation. The committee, therefore, cannot employ the services of the executive branch agencies. Both the size of the staff and the budget requirements are predicated on the necessity of conducting a comprehensive, impartial investigation.

The committee submits the following comparative analysis of budget and staffing levels of certain previous investigations as a standard by which our recommendations may be measured.

Warren Commission

Staff: 83.

Duration: 10 months.

The Warren Commission did not possess an independent investigative staff. For investigative purposes, they relied on the Federal intelligence agencies. We have been able to amass the following figures, indicating the level of support provided to the Warren Commission by each agency.

FBI: Provided 150 full-time agents who in turn conducted 25,000 interviews and submitted 2,300 reports totaling 25,400 pages. They also provided secretarial and clerical assistance.

CIA: Provided 12 full-time and part-time professionals. They also provided secretarial and clerical assistance.

Secret Service: Provided over 60 full-time professionals who conducted 1,550 interviews and submitted 800 reports totaling 4,600 pages. They also provided secretarial and clerical assistance.

Justice Department: Provided at least 4 full-time professionals.

State Department: Provided certain professional support.

IRS: Estimates that between their Internal Security Inspection Service and their Intelligence Division, they provided 6 staff-years of support.

FBI Investigation Re: Patty Hearst

The only figures available for this investigation are for the first 3-month period. During this initial 90-day span, the FBI spent $2,600,000. Figures for the number of staff employed are also unavailable.

New York State Special Nursing Home Investigation

This investigation of abuse of the medicaid program by nursing homes has a total staff of 421. The staff includes 65 lawyers, 156 auditors, 100 investigators, and 100 support personnel. Its present yearly budget is $6,000,000. In addition it utilizes 40 sitting grand juries, the cost of which is not included in the $6,000,000.

The committee feels that the staff and budget requirements it has identified at the end of this report are at minimal levels necessary to conduct comprehensive and independent investigations of the assassination of President Kennedy and Dr. King.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS

The committee and, indeed, the 94th Congress by the passage of House Resolution 1540 recognized that there are many lingering doubts as to the comprehensiveness and credibility of prior investigations into each of these assassinations. The questions which arise from even a preliminary analysis and investigation are legion. Thus, the Select Committee unanimously and unequivocally recommends:

(1) That the House of Representatives immediately move to continue the investigation of the circumstances surrounding the death of President John F. Kennedy and the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

(2) That the House immediately re-establish the Select Committee to insure that evidence which is currently under subpoena will remain intact and under the continuing control of the House and to insure that there is no delay in the ongoing investigations.

(3) That the House approve the budget as set forth herein.

Select Committee on Assassinations—Budget summary, 1977

I. Salaries	$3,635,000
II. Travel—Domestic	1,681,200
III. Travel—International	150,000
IV. Consultant services	155,000
V. Witnesses	78,900
VI. Stationery and supplies	117,000
VII. Telephone and telegraph	425,000
VIII. Equipment—Purchase	34,350
IX. Equipment—Lease	141,000
X. Reproduction, printing, and graphics	25,000
XI. Books and periodicals	5,000
XII. Miscellaneous	50,000
Total	6,531,050

I. Salaries:

A. (1) director	39,600
B. (3) deputy chief counsels at $36,000	108,000
C. (1) chief investigator	36,000
D. (30) staff counsels (14 grade 3 at $28,000 to $34,000; 12 grade 2 at $20,000 to $28,000; 4 grade 1 at $12,000 to $20,000)	832,000
E. (50) staff investigators (2 deputy chiefs at $30,000; 16 grade 3 at $24,000 to $28,000; 16 grade 2 at $18,000 to $24,000; 16 grade 1 at $12,000 to $18,000)	1,084,000
F. (5) legal unit (1 deputy chief counsel at $36,000; 2 grade 3 at $28,000 to $34,000; 2 grade 2 at $20,000 to $28,000)	152,000
G. (30) document analysis and research unit (1 chief of unit at $34,000; 2 deputy chiefs of unit at $24,000 to $30,000; 4 senior researchers at $18,000 to $24,000; 7 staff researchers at $10,000 to $18,000; 11 document clerks at $8,000 to $12,000; 1 senior computer analyst at $25,000; 4 computer analysts at $16,000 to $20,000)	497,000
H. (4) polygraph/PSE unit (4 at $30,000)	120,000
I. (2) security unit—$30,000 and $16,000	46,000
J. (9) administrative/budget unit (1 chief administrator at $34,000; 1 chief clerk at $25,000; 2 executive assistants at $25,000; 2 task force managers at $18,000; 1 editor/historian at $22,000; 1 public information officer at $34,000; 1 budget officer at $30,000)	231,000
K. (35) secretarial/clerical (35 at $10,000 to $16,000)	490,000
Total (170)	3,635,000

II. Travel—Domestic:

A. Attorneys/investigators (80 traveling—2 times per month, 5-day duration):	
Transportation—1,920 trips at $400	768,000
Per diem—1,920 trips at $250	480,000
Subtotal	1,248,000

II. Travel—Domestic—Continued		
B. Chief, deputy counsels, polygraph/PSE unit, legal unit and administrative (15 traveling—3 times per month, 3-day duration):		
Transportation—540 trips at $400		216,000
Per diem—540 trips at $150		81,000
Subtotal		297,000
C. Document analysis and research unit (5 traveling—1 time per month, 5-day duration):		
Transportation—60 trips at $400		24,000
Per diem—60 trips at $250		15,000
Subtotal		39,000
D. Committee members:		
Full Committee (2 meetings—2-day duration):		
Transportation—22 trips at $450		9,900
Per diem—22 trips at $100		2,200
Subcommittee—executive sessions (2 traveling—3 times per month, 2-day duration):		
Transportation—72 trips at $450		32,400
Per diem—72 trips at $100		7,200
Subtotal		51,700
E. Stenographic/secretarial/clerical (2 traveling—3 times per month, 2-day duration):		
Transportation—72 trips at $400		28,800
Per diem—72 trips at $100		7,200
Subtotal		36,000
F. Local travel—staff (Washington, D.C., $50 per day times 250)		12,500
Total		1,684,200
III. Travel—International:		
A. Committee members and staff (8 traveling 12 times per year, 5-day duration):		
Transportation—96 trips at $1,500		144,000
Per diem—96 trips at $375		36,000
Total		180,000
IV. Consultant services:		
A. Forensic (i.e. medical, ballistics).		
B. Experts—fingerprinting, handwriting, document analysis, criminalists (i.e. fiber, hair, clothing), neutron activation analysts, voice prints, electronic, photographic.		
C. Translators—audiovisual, etc.:		
Fee: 1,000 man-days at $100		100,000
Travel (100 trips—3-day duration):		
Transportation—100 trips at $400		40,000
Per diem—100 trips at $150		15,000
Total		155,000
V: Witnesses:		
A. Travel (78 trips, 3-day duration):		
Transportation—78 trips at $400		31,200
Per diem—78 trips at $150		11,700
B. Security: 120 days at $300		36,000
Total		78,900

VI. Stationery and supplies:	
A. Startup allowance, 170 times $300	51, 000
B. Resupply, 170 times $300	51, 000
C. Special supplies such as tapes, etc	15, 000
Total	117, 000
VII. Telephone and telegraph:	
A. Basic service	50, 000
B. Long distance—300 days times $1,250	375, 000
Total	425, 000
(Note: The basic service amount has been furnished by the Chesapeake-Potomac Telephone Co. representative. Long distance charges have been estimated at 250 calls per day at an average cost of $5 per call.)	
VIII. Equipment—purchase:	
A. Tape recorders (23 at $150; 2 at $300)	4, 350
B. Cameras, projectors, screen, etc	2, 000
C. Polygraphs (2 at $2,800)	5, 600
D. Stress evaluators (2 at $4,000)	8, 000
E. Miniphone recording devices (2 at $2,200)	4, 400
F. Security devices for staff offices	10, 000
Total	34, 350
IX. Equipment—Lease:	
A. Xerox—3 at $12,000	36, 000
B. IBM Memory Typewriter—2 at $2,500	5, 000
C. Computer services	100, 000
Total	141, 000
(Note: The major portion of the committee's computer service needs will be handled through the facilities of the Committee on House Administration. The direct charges to the Select Committee will be $57,600 for computer terminals. There will be other charges which have yet to be determined by the Committee on House Administration.)	
X. Reproductions, printing, and graphics: This allowance is needed for the development of films, enlargements, special printing, art work, graphics, etc	25, 000
XI. Books/periodicals: This amount is needed for books, literature, periodicals, newspapers, etc	5, 000
XII. Miscellaneous: Contingency allowance (this amount is a contingency allowance representing approximately 1 percent of the budget to allow for underestimating in the various expense categories and to provide for unanticipated expenses)	50, 000

ADDITIONAL VIEWS OF HENRY B. GONZALEZ

I completely support the recommendation of the committee, urge that the 95th Congress immediately reestablish it, and that a budget be approved in the full amount requested.

If ever a legislative effort began with less promise, it was the work of this Select Committee. The committee began its work in the waning days of the 94th Congress, had no staff, no offices, no time to organize properly, and no time to prepare or carry out the study it was commissioned to do. The committee has, however, accomplished more than anyone could have thought possible.

First, the committee has secured the services of an outstanding chief counsel, Richard A. Sprague; he is one of the most effective and respected investigators in the country today. The committee has also been able to hire a team of exceptionally able investigators, researchers, and attorneys. There is absolutely no doubt that Mr. Sprague and his Staff can conduct a completely independent, dispassionate, objective, and thoroughly professional study, given time and adequate support.

In the very short time available, the committee has obtained a substantial amount of information and evidence, and placed these under its control. Researchers and investigators have compiled, and indexed an immense amount of material, initiated some investigations, and most important, prepared the ground for the sustained effort ahead.

Second, the committee has defined its job and has a clear idea of how it is to be accomplished.

The committee does not intend to prove or disprove any theory concerning the assassinations it will study. Instead, the committee will conduct a completely new, independent study. It will begin with the events, take the evidence available, verify that evidence, and reach reasonable conclusions based on the available evidence: no more, no less.

I recognize that an approach of this kind will entail a substantial amount of money, and will require a large number of people; moreover, a study of this kind will take time, and cannot be subject to any deadlines. To have any meaning, the investigation must rely on unimpeachable integrity. To do less than a completely thorough job would be to accomplish nothing at all.

The committee is unanimous in its conclusion that it must be able to rely completely on its own resources. We know that neither the FBI nor CIA cooperated fully with the Warren Commission; and we know that the FBI Director in 1968 had passionate feelings against Dr. Martin Luther King—feelings that might well have been reflected in less than objective work by his subordinates. The decision of the committee to rely on its own staff rather than Executive agencies does not reflect on the integrity or efficiency of those agencies; but we are determined that this be a completely independent study, not in any way affected by the interests of any agency or group.

Investigations of any kind are expensive. Few people, perhaps few of my colleagues, realize how costly even a simple investigation can be. The scope of this study, and the fact that evidence and witnesses are scattered far and wide, the complexity of carrying out two major homicide investigations at once, will make this a very expensive effort. But I am satisfied that the study must be independent, must be thorough, and that every finding must be as thoroughly verified as humanely possible, or the entire effort will be meaningless.

Third, the committee has demonstrated its competence. In the very short amount of time it has had available, the committee has accomplished miracles of organization, defined its work, and begun an extremely complex set of investigations. It is difficult to imagine how it could have accomplished more than it has, especially under the very adverse conditions it has been forced to operate under.

I believe the committee has demonstrated that it has a real task to accomplish. If it is permitted to proceed, the committee can settle hundreds of questions about the murder of President Kennedy and that of Dr. King. Beyond that, the committee can shed light on the larger issue of political murder and violence. We should not forget that President Ford had his own narrow escapes; no Member of the House should forget that the Capitol Building was bombed; and no Member of the House should forget that we live and work under increasingly tight security measures.

It is necessary today to have a vast police force in and around the Capitol. It is necessary to have television monitors on every door. It is necessary to have parcels X-rayed.

Every airline passenger must be subjected to an electronic search for metal, and baggage carried aboard airplanes, and even into boarding areas, must be X-rayed.

Visitors to the Supreme Court must be cleared.

New gates and increasingly sophisticated surveillance devices surround and protect the White House. A whole new police force is employed to protect Embassies.

All of this reflects an age of political violence; all of it has come about since 1963. All of it shows that we have not learned the answer to the crucial question: Why?

That, as I see it, is the ultimate task of the Select Committee—to find out not just what happened, but why.

If we can answer that question, it may be possible to end political violence, and begin taking down the security measures that repress all of us, and represent a genuine threat to free government. Political violence is not inevitable, and it is not inexplicable. The Select Committee may, and I hope will, shed light on why these events took place, and why they shadow all our lives, even today—and how we can begin to end political violence and the omnipresent threat of it, which is, in fact, a threat to free government itself.

HENRY B. GONZALEZ.

SUPPLEMENTAL VIEWS OF CONGRESSPERSONS LOUIS STOKES, WALTER E. FAUNTROY, YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE, AND HAROLD E. FORD

The purpose of these supplemental views is to strongly emphasize our concurrence in the recommendation contained in the committee's report. In our opinion, the House of Representatives took a giant step toward restoring the faith of the American people in their Government when, in the 94th Congress, it passed House Resolution 1540 by a majority vote of 280 to 65 and established the Select Committee on Assassinations. Just this past week, the latest Gallup Pool told us that 80 percent of the American people do not believe that either Lee Harvey Oswald or James Earl Ray acted alone in the murders of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. They feel that their Government has not told them all that it knows or that it is in position to find out about the brutal assassinations of two of the most important leaders of the Post World War II era.

The following article appeared in the Washington Post on December 26, 1976, and read as follows:

> As the House Select Committee on Assassinations begins its investigations, the overwhelming majority of Americans believe that others besides Lee Harvey Oswald were involved in the assassination of President Kennedy in Dallas on November 22, 1963.
>
> In the latest survey, just completed, 80 percent think others were involved in the assassination, while only 11 percent think Oswald acted alone. Nine percent do not express an opinion. Persons with a college background, while overwhelmingly of the opinion that some form of conspiracy was involved, are less inclined to hold this view than are persons with less than a college background.
>
> Approximately one-half of the survey respondents who believe others were involved did not name a specific group. Among those who did, however, Cuba or Premier Fidel Castro were mentioned most often. Other responses frequently given are "the Mafia," "Communists," and the Central Intelligence Agency.
>
> The same survey also shows that few Americans believe James Earl Ray acted on his own in the assassination of the Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr. in Memphis on April 4, 1968. Only 18 percent hold this view, while 69 percent think others were involved and 13 percent do not express an opinion.
>
> An investigation into the assassinations of Kennedy and King was recently begun by the newly established House Select Committee on Assassinations—the sixth to be conducted on a large scale by Government officials since Kennedy was assassinated.

Thus, in the case of the death of President Kennedy, in spite of the Warren Commission investigation and the investigations by other Federal agencies and the U.S. Congress, the final reports to the American people have lacked the thoroughness to allay their suspicion that a conspiracy existed which has not yet been uncovered. In the case of James Earl Ray and the King murder, the same general suspicions exist. The threshold inquiries made into these two deaths by our present committee do not provide the answers to these rumors, theories, and suspicions. If these fears, theories, suspicions, and rumors are to be put to rest and if the confidence of the American people is to be restored in the investigative agencies of their Government, a thorough, competent and objective investigation into each of these deaths is an absolute necessity.

This committee has proceeded in that vein. The committee has selected Mr. Richard Sprague, a prominent prosecuting attorney as chief counsel and director of its staff. He is in the process of establishing a staff of attorneys, investigators, and administrative personnel who are capable of exhibiting the highest degree of competence and professionalism in the enormous task of investigating two murders. The Warren Commission was able to avail itself of the investigative personnel of numerous agencies such as the FBI, CIA, the Secret Service, the Justice Department, the State Department, and the Internal Revenue Service.

The integrity of the results of the investigation by the Select Committee on Assassinations will be predicated upon a thorough, objective, fair, and impartial investigation by professional personnel, who will be independent and will be free from the taint of "investigating themselves." It is imperative, therefore, that these minimum staff and budget recommendations which are being requested be granted by the 95th Congress. If in the final analysis we have been able to help restore the faith and confidence of the American people in their Government, this Congress will have justified the costs and will have endeared itself to the people whom we serve.

LOUIS STOKES.
WALTER E. FAUNTROY.
YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE.
HAROLD E. FORD.

SUPPLEMENTARY VIEWS OF CONGRESSMAN CHARLES THONE

I am in basic agreement with the Report of the Select Committee on Assassinations to the 94th Congress. I do, however, wish to make the following observations.

Unless this Select Committee maintains complete credibility with the American public, its efforts will be in vain. Anything that subtracts from the faith and confidence that the people of the United States have in this committee will greatly diminish the value of its final report.

Therefore, I have been deeply concerned by the tendency of a majority on the committee to conduct far too many meetings in executive session. I grant there will be some matters coming before the committee that should be heard in executive sessions. Examples of such matters are testimony that would endanger the national security and, in special investigative hearings, such testimony or evidence that would tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate an individual who might be innocent. By and large, however, we can only serve the public well through conducting our sessions after adequate notice and in public.

At the December 17, 1976, meeting of the committee, a motion which I introduced was adopted unanimously by those present. It specifically provides in the reconstruction resolution of this committee for the 95th Congress that the committee, at its first meeting in 1977, must adopt rules for its conduct and that those rules must be in accordance with House of Representatives rules.

Rule XI provides that every committee of the House shall adopt written rules governing its procedure, and Rule XI 2(g)(1) provides that "Each meeting for the transaction of business, including the markup of legislation, of each standing committee or subcommittee thereof shall be open to the public except when the committee or subcommittee, in open session and with a quorum present, determines by rollcall vote that all or part of the remainder of the meeting on that day shall be closed to the public." Other meeting rules cover proper notice, specified record keeping and some very limited exceptions to open sessions. We can and must follow both the letter and spirit of these rules.

Yes, by all means this Select Committee on Assassinations must operate scrupulously and diligently within the rules of the House. Furthermore, we must strive, within the rules, to be open and accessible to the public and their representatives, the news media. For this committee, credibility is everything. And credibility will best be served, as usual, by conducting public business in public.

CHARLES THONE.

ADDITIONAL VIEWS OF CONGRESSMAN CHRISTOPHER J. DODD

"Independence, thoroughness, and openness" must be the guiding principles of these new investigations into the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. by our House Select Committee on Assassinations.

In endorsing this report, I would like to take this opportunity to elaborate on these themes, and to underscore their importance to the ultimate success or failure of our efforts. I also want to share my personal views on these inquiries, as the committee begins this ambitious undertaking.

As an early cosponsor of congressional resolutions calling for this Select Committee, I have long felt that there remain many unanswered questions surrounding these assassinations—especially questions about the roles of the Federal agencies charged with investigating these terrible crimes.

The specific questions highlighted in this report as to the conduct of the Central Intelligence Agency, and its apparent knowledge of some of Lee Harvey Oswald's activities in Mexico before the Kennedy assassination, are examples of just such continuing concerns.

Another example underscored in this document is the question of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's reported surveillance of Dr. King, and whether FBI agents were in Memphis and near the civil rights leader at the time of his death.

The House Judiciary Subcommittee on Civil Rights, on which I serve and which has oversight responsibility for the FBI, found it necessary last year to hold hearings about that agency's activities before and after President Kennedy's assassination. After taking part in those hearings, I can say our subcommittee raised more new questions about the FBI and the assassination than we received answers to old ones.

Since then, other pressing legislative responsibilities—such as FBI surveillance guidelines and bankruptcy law reforms—prevented our Judiciary Subcommittee from pursuing these new questions, and the unanswered old ones, as fully as would have been desired.

The allegations of possible conspiracies, and of the possible withholding of evidence, are more of the many additional questions about these assassinations which should be laid to rest once and for all, so that these tragic chapters in American history can at last be closed.

I think this new, Select Committee represents a unique opportunity for Congress and the American people to finally resolve the issues still surrounding these murders, and I would hope the committee will be able to provide the answers to all these continuing questions.

However, it must be pointed out that this committee could, after its lengthy, exhaustive inquiries, still reach the same conclusions about these assassinations that other investigating bodies have before us. Or this committee might arrive at far different conclusions.

The American people have a right to know the full stories behind these assassinations. They have a right to know the motives and reasons for them, how these deeds were accomplished, and who truly was responsible for them.

This Committee, then, has a great responsibility to fulfill, and the ways it accomplishes this task are of the utmost importance. It is here where "Independence, thoroughness, and openness" count the most.

"Independence"—As mentioned before in these views and in the body of this report, major criticisms of past investigations of these assassinations focus heavily on the activities of the Federal justice and intelligence agencies charged with conducting the initial criminal inquiries.

In light of the fact that these Federal agencies could be the subject of part of our investigation, it would be wholly inappropriate to employ their services as has been done in past assassination studies. Such reliance on these agencies would prejudice the necessary impartiality and credibility of our inquiries.

Therefore, it is crucial to the success of this committee that it retain an experienced, professional investigative and legal staff completely independent from these Federal Government agencies. This great need for an independent staff is the primary reason why the proposed committee budget totals what it does.

"Thoroughness"—I am pleased that the members of this committee, and its staff, are committed to pursuing every possible avenue of investigation and every conceivable theory and lead about these assassinations.

This determination to find definitive answers, if they exist, to all the questions surrounding the assassinations is significant, because the committee's work must withstand the tests of time which other investigations apparently have failed to pass. In 10, 20, 30, or 100 years after the end of our inquiries, the American people should not have to face the doubts about these crimes which exist today.

Our committee must go about its deliberations in the most considered and careful manner possible—eschewing making judgments and conclusions until all the evidence is gathered and evaluated. It is essential that the committee and staff approach these inquiries with completely open minds, so as to avoid possible charges from any quarter that we are being less than objective.

Central to the thoroughness of our investigations will be the necessity to obtain confidential, sensitive, or classified material from Federal agencies. In this regard, I believe the committee should insist on full and total disclosure of all relevant documents in raw, rather than edited or excised, form.

The committee should have the unlimited opportunity to make an independent analysis of these documents, and it should not accept any preselection or screening of information by any agency. Acceptance of edited or screened information could jeopardize the independence of the committee's investigations and could raise the possibilities of pertinent information being withheld by the agencies.

To obtain the necessary raw information and documents, the Select Committee should avoid the past experiences of other congressional bodies which made "treaties" with Federal agencies about access to information.

The requirements of a thorough, independent investigation must not be compromised away through "treaties," and the committee must be willing to employ all appropriate means, including contempt of Congress citations, to obtain needed information. The committee furthermore must be willing to vigorously pursue subpoenas and contempt citations to the fullest legal extent possible in its efforts to secure relevant information.

In insisting on total disclosure of relevant agency information relating to the assassinations, the committee must recognize a paramount responsibility to ensure the safekeeping and confidentiality of such materials through whatever elaborate security measures and personnel clearance procedures are necessary. The act of "leaking" any such materials should face the most severe penalties, also.

Lastly in the area of "thoroughness," I would caution the American people to also avoid reaching premature conclusions about the nature, progress and results of the committee's examinations.

It would be misleading for the public to view committee deliberations and hearings about specific allegations, observations, theories, et cetera regarding the assassinations as official endorsements of the validity of these pieces of information.

Until any interim or final committee reports set forth conclusive findings from the investigations, any deliberations and hearings, and their contents, should be viewed as part of the overall process by which we are attempting to determine the truthfulness or falsity of all this information.

"Openness"—Clearly, the question whether to hold meetings and hearings in public or in closed session is one of the most difficult with which the committee must deal. The obligation has, as an arm of a public institution, Congress, to do its business in public must be balanced by the need to protect the confidentiality of certain sensitive information.

I believe that a meeting or a hearing of our committee should be closed only when it has been demonstrated that an executive session is necessary to:

(1) protect the constitutional rights and safety of witnesses;

(2) avoid jeopardizing the ongoing investigations, such as by risking loss of potential evidence; and,

(3) safeguard national defense information.

Any decision to close a meeting or hearing should be made by a rollcall, rather than a voice, vote.

During the course of the committee's investigations, as plateaus are reached where significant evidence has been verified, allowing various conclusions to be drawn, then it would seem proper for the committee to hold open sessions, or to issue interim reports, to keep the public informed of its work.

This committee has an obligation to conduct as much of its business as possible in open sessions, where the American people can follow our investigations and judge for themselves how well or poorly we are discharging our responsibilities. Such openness, I submit, is essential to establishing the credibility of our committee and of the results of its investigations.

The American people should have the opportunity to observe how the members of this committee question witnesses. The public should

be afforded as many insights as possible into the actual workings of the investigations, because such participation will mean that our final conclusions will be more credible to all Americans.

During floor debate on the House resolution establishing the committee, a major argument in its favor was that, unlike past investigations, we would allow the people to oversee our deliberations. Such openness, it was argued, would help to quell public mistrust of Congress and of our governing process, in general. This argument remains valid today.

Our committee might finally conclude that past investigations of the Kennedy and King assassinations were correct in their findings, thus rejecting the many alternative theories now circulated. Or we might show some of these theories to be correct.

What is as important here as any specific conclusion we might reach, is that we allow a reasonable, open process to work, and that we demonstrate to the people that we are giving each and every theory thorough scrutiny before accepting or rejecting it. In this way, no one in the future, will be able to challenge the committee's integrity and responsibility, as past investigations have been challenged.

To further demonstrate the committee's commitment to conducting an open inquiry, and to allow discussion in the near future of the best way to strike a balance between our public obligation and the need to maintain a certain level of confidentiality, I again would urge the committee to draft a comprehensive policy statement or set of rules dealing with these issues. Policy or committee rules regarding the handling of sensitive documents, and statements to the press by individual members, also should be proposed for discussion. Such rules or policies should be debated and voted on by the committee at an open session early next year.

In summary, I feel that the Select Committee has made a productive beginning, and by this report, has demonstrated that it should be reconstituted as quickly as possible in the 95th Congress to allow the investigations to proceed without a loss of continuity or momentum. I urge all my colleagues in Congress to support such a reestablishment of the committee.

Furthermore, I believe that only through independence, thoroughness, and openness will the committee earn and continue to receive the full support of the American people to pursue these deliberations along whatever paths the investigations might lead, including the firm steps needed to enforce subpoenas and contempt of Congress citations.

And it will be only by following these guiding principles that the committee, and its work, will be acceptable to the American people as providing proper answers to the disturbing questions which still surround the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and The Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.

CHRISTOPHER J. DODD.

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a reduction of each personal income tax rate by 5 percent and the corporate income tax rate by 2 percent?

We are working on developing an answer to this question and will submit our best estimate as soon as it is available, probably in about two weeks.

Sincerely yours,

ALICE M. RIVLIN,
Director.

NOVEMBER 30, 1976.

DR ALICE RIVLIN,
Director, Congressional Budget Office,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR DR. RIVLIN: Your appearance and presentation before the House Committee on the Budget this morning to discuss the reasons for and the implications of the now famous spending "shortfall" of fiscal year 1976 and the transition quarter was very much appreciated.

In follow-up to our colloquy, I am submitting in written form the questions which we discussed during the hearing.

Much has been said in regard to the "twin evils" in the present economy, of unemployment and inflation. There has also been considerable discussion surrounding the most appropriate way to combat them. How does the spending shortfall which the Budget Committee has discussed today affect these "evils"? Specifically:

(1) To what extent does the $11.4 billion shortfall (comparing actual FY 1976 and transition quarter figures with January, 1976 budget figures) affect the current unemployment levels? If the reduced expenditures had not occurred and the money would have been spent on schedule, how many new jobs, if any, would have been created as a result of the additional Federal "stimulus"?

(2) Do your estimates as to the job-creation-effect of the shortfall change when given the $17.5 billion figure produced by comparing the actual FY 1976 and TQ figures with the Congressional Concurrent resolutions?

(3) To what extent does the spending reduction—considered at both spending levels—affect the inflationary pressures of the economy? Would inflation have been higher had the shortfall in expenditures not taken place?

(4) In your testimony you indicated that the "missing stimulus" brought about as a result of the shortfall has had a depressant effect on the expansion of the economy. Would this reduction in growth have taken place if Congress had included the President's entire tax reform proposal as a part of its fiscal stimulus package for fiscal year 1976?

(5) Of the total shortfall in outlays, what dollar amount qualifies as "missing stimulus"?

(6) What would be the effect on GNP and employment of a tax cut, to be enacted in the third quarter of FY 1977, consisting of a reduction of each personal income bracket rate by 5 percent and the corporate income tax rate by 2 percent?

Thank you again, Dr Rivlin, for your testimony and for your consideration of these questions.

Kind regards,

JOHN H. ROUSSELOT.

(Mr. ROUSSELOT asked and was given permission to extend his remarks at this point in the RECORD and to include extraneous matter.)

[Mr. ROUSSELOT's remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE TRADE ACT OF 1974

(Mr. SHARP asked and was given permission to extend his remarks at this point in the RECORD and to include extraneous matter.)

Mr. SHARP. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing today, with Mr. BRADEMAS, Mr. RHODES, Mr. BAUCUS, and Mr. BENJAMIN, an amendment to the Trade Act of 1974 which is designed to correct an inequity in the application of the trade adjustment assistance program.

The Trade Act of 1974 provides for payment of a trade readjustment allowance—TRA—to workers laid off from a firm as a result of increased imports. Although I was not in the Congress when the Trade Act was passed, I understand that the purpose of TRA was to provide temporary relief for those workers who were injured by a U.S. trade policy which, in total, was beneficial to the economy of this country. The payments are limited by the law, however, to workers whose layoffs occurred within 1 year before the date of their petition for certification by the Department of Labor and after October 3, 1974.

This proposed amendment to the Trade Act would not change the October 3, 1974, earliest eligibility date; section 223(b)(2) would remain unchanged. Thus, there is no danger of opening the door to cases of import-related layoffs which took place years ago.

What this amendment does change is the provision that eligibility is limited to those workers laid off within 1 year prior to the date of their petition for assistance. It is my understanding that this 1-year limitation was written into the law for two reasons: First, to place some limit on retroactivity; and second, to maintain a causal linkage between the imports and the layoffs; that is, to insure that imports actually caused the layoffs of the workers who received benefits.

The amendment would accomplish these goals without arbitrarily excluding some workers from the program. The amendment replaces the 1-year-prior-to-the-petition date with a 2-year eligibility limit.

Mr. Speaker, last year I introduced a similar amendment which would have eliminated the 1-year cutoff provision. In a hearing on that bill before the Trade Subcommittee on September 28, 1976, representatives of the Department of Labor testified that open-ended eligibility would cause major administrative difficulties. For that reason the bill I am introducing today would not totally eliminate the cutoff, but it would substitute a 2-year limit for the existing 1-year limit.

As I testified at the hearing, there were three cases in my own District where an inequity resulted from the 1-year cutoff: the Warner Gear plant in Muncie, Jay Garment in Portland, and Allegheny Ludlum in New Castle. In each of these cases, petitions for trade adjustment assistance were filed more than 1 year after the first import-related layoffs. It is clear from the number of such cases which occurred around the country during the first year of the program's operation that information about TRA was not sufficiently well known.

If this bill is enacted, thousands of workers will become eligible to receive the benefits which Congress intended them to receive and which, in many cases, their coworkers have already received. It is not too late to correct this injustice, and I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

REMARKS CONCERNING THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

(Mr. DELLUMS asked and was given permission to extend his remarks at this point in the RECORD and to include extraneous matter.)

Mr. DELLUMS. Mr. Speaker, in an effort to lay to rest once and for all the skepticism and growing doubts concerning the Kennedy and King assassinations, I have strongly supported the establishment of the House Select Committee on Assassinations. My work on the House Select Committee on Intelligence convinced me of the very serious examples of negligence by the investigating agencies concerned. If we expect a higher standard of performance in the future, we cannot take a "let-bygones-be-bygones" attitude toward the scandals of the past. The fear of ultimate exposure is one powerful motive for maintaining proper professional standards.

I believe the sum proposed by the committee is essential if the committee is to perform a professional, indepth investigation. The proposed budget might seem extravagant when compared to that of the Warren Commission. But I want to point out that the Warren Commission had the services of 150 full-time FBI agents, 60 full-time Secret Service agents and 12 full-time and part-time CIA agents, plus their backup staffs and facilities. In addition, the Justice Department and the State Department provided the Warren Commission with professional help.

Because questions have arisen as to the adequacies of prior investigations by the FBI and CIA and the possibility that one or both might become the subject of part of the committee's investigation, the services of these agencies cannot be utilized.

Since the deaths of President Kennedy and Dr. King, new evidence has come to light and with it new questions and new doubts concerning the adequacies of previous investigations. The House of Representatives in its mandate to the committee has shown its determination to lay to rest this growing sense of national concern and to resolve the questions and doubts once and for all. The mandate should be renewed.

I believe that the committee has a real opportunity to make a genuine contribution to national trust and unity. I urge that it be authorized and properly funded.

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tion and evidence among agencies and departments."

We now have an even broader scope of inquiry being called for.

I still have grave reservations about the "designated counsel" that is provided for in the resolution. An inquiry by delegation of authority is precisely the practice that has caused people to have doubts about the validity of the Warren Commission's findings.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the resolution states that if the select committee is to be formed it would dissolve on March 31, 1977. Now, we all know very little, if anything, of consequence is going to be done by that time and we ought to come to grips with this thing right here and now. Either we put a stop to it once and for all right here and now or if we do proceed, do so only in a very limited and precise way.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE RESOLUTION 231, WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 474

Mr. DELANEY, from the Committee on Rules, reported the following privileged resolution (H. Res. 231, Rept. No. 95-8), which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed:

H. Res. 231

Resolved, That, immediately upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider, without the intervention of any point of order the conference report on the bill (S. 474) to authorize the President of the United States to order emergency deliveries and transportation of natural gas to deal with existing or imminent shortages by providing assistance in meeting requirements for high-priority uses; to provide authority for short-term emergency purchases of natural gas; and for other purposes, and all points of order against said conference report are hereby waived.

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 231 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The SPEAKER. The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read the resolution.

The SPEAKER. The question is, Will the House now consider House Resolution 231?

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. PICKLE. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. PICKLE. Mr. Speaker, I had asked for time to speak on the question of the adoption of the rule, and I wish to preserve my right. That is all I want to do.

The SPEAKER. The Chair will state that the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PICKLE) should defer at this time. This is on the question of whether the House will now consider House Resolution 231.

Mr. PICKLE. I thank the Speaker.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I make a point of order.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman will state his point of order.

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I make the point of order that the resolution has not been printed.

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, this is merely to consider taking up the rule.

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to make the point of order that I believe under this rule we are waiving all points of order; is that not correct?

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield further, that matter will be taken up at the proper time. This is merely for consideration, at this particular time, of House Resolution 231.

The SPEAKER. The Chair will state that the point of order of the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. MOORE) is not well taken and is therefore overruled.

There is no requirement that this resolution be printed before it can be called up, although the Chair ordered the resolution printed when it was filed and referred to the House Calendar.

The question is, Will the House now consider House Resolution 231?

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the House agreed to consider House Resolution 231.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman from New York (Mr. DELANEY) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. QUILLEN), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. DELANEY asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, this is a rather unusual procedure which we have here today.

This resolution was brought to the Committee on Rules, and I believe I received the communication last night.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution provides for the consideration of the conference report on S. 474, the Emergency Natural Gas Act of 1977, without the intervention of any point of order. The resolution also provides that all points of order against the conference report are waived.

The conference report was filed today and thus does not meet the 3-day layover requirement, the 2-hour availability requirement. Section 9(c) of the report contains matter which was not in either the House or Senate bills and is thus beyond the scope of the conference. It is possible that this language is also nongermane.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the adoption of the resolution in order that the House may consider the conference report on S. 474.

Mr. QUILLEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. QUILLEN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. QUILLEN. Mr. Speaker, this is a rule making it possible to have a discussion on the conference report which is being brought before the House to help solve a crisis which is facing the American people today, the industries in America, the workers in America, the farmers in America, and all Americans. I support this rule and I urge its adoption, but I would like to point out to the Members of the House that the passage of this conference report is not going to produce 1 more cubic foot of extra natural gas that can be consumed in America. I believe that this Congress for the past 2 years has not performed its duties in passing a permanent solution to our problem, that of allowing more domestic production. But, as I say, today we face a crisis. This conference report is mandatory and I urge its passage.

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. QUILLEN. I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana.

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, as I understand this rule, it waives all points of order, on the conference report on the Emergency Natural Gas Act. Is that correct?

Mr. QUILLEN. Yes, it does waive all points of order because there is some language in the conference report on page 7 on which it is necessary to waive points of order. But, in waiving them I do not think the House is giving up any of its rights and is only responding to the present crisis that faces us today.

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I would ask the gentleman from Tennessee to yield further to me.

Mr. QUILLEN. I yield further to the gentleman from Louisiana.

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I would ask the gentleman from Tennessee if it is not true that the definition of interstate natural gas has been expanded in the conference report to include language that was neither in the House or the Senate passed versions?

Mr. QUILLEN. There is language in the conference report that was not in either the House or Senate bill and that is why the waivers are necessary. We went into detail on this in the Committee on Rules and I do not find it objectionable at all.

Mr. MOORE. I certainly find it objectionable if the intent of this new definition is to bring under the emergency allocation provisions of this act previously excluded intrastate natural gas.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the gentleman from Tennessee, or someone who can answer this question, if that is in fact the intent of this new expanded definition to bring, for the first time in the history of the laws of this Nation, natural gas which is currently excluded from the Natural Gas Act, to waive the provisions of that act in this definition, and to now bring that gas for the first time under control of the Federal Government and under control of the emergency allocation provisions of this bill.

Mr. QUILLEN. I would like to yield to the chairman of the committee, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. STAGGERS) for a response to the question.

Mr. STAGGERS. Mr. Speaker, it does not change anything with respect to intrastate gas or control of it, in fact it goes beyond and it protects it from becoming jurisdictional.

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield further to me?

Mr. QUILLEN. I yield further to the gentleman from Louisiana.

man from Connecticut (Mr. McKINNEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. McKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, if it were not for the seriousness of the situation we face, involving the lives and livelihood of millions of Americans, I think I would laugh out loud. This country has again been unexpectedly crippled by yet another "energy crisis" and Congress is again contemplating "emergency" measures to bring that crisis under control.

Despite my plans to join the ranks of my colleagues who will rush to the aid of the critically stricken regions of our country and support Mr. Carter's emergency allocation bill, I will not do so without a sense of disgust. Connecticut will do its part to free-up supplies for its fellow States and will do so happily in recognition of the assistance we in the Northeast have received in coping with our own, more persistent, energy emergency. However, Mr. Speaker, Connecticut will feel the pinch of further constraints on her already fragile economy.

In the last Congress, you recall that the House spent quite some time debating a proposal to deregulate the price of new natural gas. Opponents of deregulation claimed that industry warnings of severe shortages ranged from inaccurate to intentionally untrue. In the name of consumer protection, opponents of the measure effectively blocked decontrol and eliminated the sorely needed financial incentives to produce additional supplies. As a result, prices for some consumers were indeed held down so effectively that no gas will flow to them now that they are in dire need. Such attempts to repeal the law of supply and demand are what I call consumer protection at its congressional best.

Regardless of how quickly or successfully our relief efforts develop, Mr. Speaker, I do not expect plaudits from the American people for our actions here today. Congress must shoulder the primary responsibility for this most recent crisis. How can we expect anything but intermittent fuel shortages and crises in light of our remarkable failure to develop a definitive and coordinated national energy program within which such seasonal short-falls could be anticipated? The emergency program which Mr. Carter has devised is our only alternative due to the immediacy of the problem. However, the President's proposal should not be mistaken as a solution to our present or future dilemma. This reallocation proposal merely spreads the burden more thinly on the theory that a lot of people hurting a little is better than a few people hurting a lot. There must come a point when the problem can no longer be redistributed but must be solved.

I am afraid that it is an inescapable human weakness, regardless of party affiliation, that near disaster must strike before a problem of this dimension can be properly addressed. Hopefully, this winter's disaster has provided us with the impetus to resist further knee-jerk energy policymaking and tackle the problem in its full scope. To date, the product of this hand-to-mouth energy program has been a national energy policy consisting of three factors: The good will of OPEC, the good graces of the Russian Navy, and our prayers for good weather. The American people have a right to expect a more tangible program for national and regional energy development after 3 years of work.

Mr. Speaker, we must first prioritize our specific needs. If we are to depend on foreign oil imports as a primary energy source for the next 20 years, then let us plan for that. If the American people must pay higher fuel prices in order to stimulate domestic resource production, then so be it—but let us pass an excess profits tax and an energy tax rebate to minimize the economic disruption inherent in that course. We need a definitive timetable to account for the contribution of coal, nuclear, geothermal, and solar resources—a timetable upon which producers, refiners, distributors, and utilities can rely. These priorities, in turn, would require us to structure our environmental goals to complement energy development so energy producers can plan long-range generation needs without fear of fuel interruption or conversion orders. And finally, within that framework, I hope we would also eliminate ill-advised plans to export our energy resources as in the case of Alaskan gas and oil. A national energy policy would provide for the domestic consumption of those resources in areas, like New England, which are dependent on foreign sources for crude and must compete with their domestic neighbors for finished products due to the lack of regional refining facilities. Sadly, these are the problems we do not address today.

Mr. Speaker, I could go on ad infinitum, but each Member of this body knows what must be done. Unless prompt and effective action is taken, next year's energy supply distortions will be even more severe regardless of the winter's burden. I urgently hope we can do what must be done today, learn from this most recent disaster, and get on with the vital task that awaits us.

STATEMENT OF VIEWS OPPOSING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KELLY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I come before you today to voice my strong opposition to House Resolution 9 which would establish the House Select Committee on Assassinations for the purpose of reinvestigating the assassination of President Kennedy, Martin Luther King, Jr., and any other persons deemed necessary by the committee.

I submit that if we approve this resolution, we will be committing the American taxpayer to a multimillion-dollar fishing expedition for the benefit of a bunch of publicity seekers who plan to build their political fortunes by impugning the motives and abilities of men and institutions that had the highest respect of the nation at the time they were committed.

The basic question we must ask ourselves is whom—or what—does the committee intend to investigate?

Are we to delude ourselves with the notion that casting a $13 million dragnet today, 13 years after the fact, will provide fresh leads on the assassination and investigation thereof?

Or are we to be swayed by rumors, allegations—running rampant of late—that the CIA, the FBI, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and a whole array of highly respected public officials conspired somehow to keep the real facts about President Kennedy's assassination from the American public? Are we to believe these people were so inept that they could not see then what those conducting the current investigation can see 13 years later?

Let us remember that at the time of the tragedy an army of trained investigators from nearly all branches of government swooped down on Dallas in an all-out effort to pick up the slightest shred of evidence on the killing. They included the Dallas Police Department, the Dallas County Sheriff's Department, the Texas Department of Public Safety, the FBI—which dispatched more than 50 additional agents to Dallas to assist in the investigation—the Secret Service, and the CIA.

To avoid parallel investigations and to concentrate the task of factfinding in one body with the broadest possible national mandate, President Johnson, on November 29, 1963, created a nonpartisan Commission to collect the information and present its conclusions to the American people. Lest we forget, members of the Warren Commission were universally acclaimed for their integrity and dedication to this country.

President Johnson selected Earl Warren, Chief Justice of the United States, to head the panel.

Serving with him were: Richard B. Russell, Democratic Senator from Georgia and chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, former Governor and county attorney in the State of Georgia; John Sherman Cooper, the Republican Senator from Kentucky, and U.S. Ambassador to India; Hale Boggs, Democratic U.S. Representative from Louisiana and majority whip; and Gerald R. Ford, Republican U.S. Representative from Michigan—and chairman of the House Republican Conference.

From the private sector the President selected two prominent attorneys who had served in the administrations of both Democratic and Republican Presidents. They were Allen W. Dulles, former Director of the CIA, and John J. McCloy, former President of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, former U.S. High Commissioner to Germany, and during World War II, the Assistant Secretary of War.

The Commission's legal staff consisted of persons with high professional qualifications and was drawn from different areas of the United States. Ten major departments of the Federal Government, 14 of its independent agencies and commissions, and 4 congressional committees

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tees were directed to supply all information relating to the crime.

Today, an ambitious assemblage of latter-day supersleuths would have us believe these same men were dummies, or, worse yet, treasonous, in conspiring with a foreign power to assassinate the President of the United States, and in conspiring to cover up the investigation.

If this is so, then we should not be investigating the assassination of President Kennedy, or that of any man for that matter. If this is so, we should be investigating the basic structure of this Government on the premise that it is in some conspiracy against the people of this country.

I do not believe there is any moral, ethical or practical basis to justify the premise. What really needs investigating are the motives of those who are working so diligently to instill in the hearts of the American people distrust for one another and disrespect for their institutions.

On the other hand, I am not preaching the infallibility of the Warren Commission, or of any other investigatory agency for that matter.

The suggestion has been made, and I am in agreement, that if valid questions have arisen or new facts have come to light that might alter the Warren Commission's findings, then the matter should be investigated—by a properly selected nonpartisan panel of factfinders, not a bunch of free-spending headline grabbers.

To do otherwise would be to discredit our local, State and Federal law enforcement agencies, our court system and the Warren Commission—most of whom, I believe—worked honestly and hard to unravel this great tragedy.

Whether or not there needs to be an investigation is a matter of debate. But if House Resolution 9 is approved many politicians will make their names in this world, at the expense of the American taxpayer and the reputation of the institutions we have come to depend on. That we can be sure of.

This type of smear is immoral and unjust, and I urge my colleagues to oppose it.

LEGISLATION PROVIDING SEVEN ADDITIONAL JUDGES FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BURKE) is recognized for 15 minutes.

Mr. BURKE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation which would amend title 28 of the United States Code to provide seven additional judges for the southern district of Florida. If this legislation is passed into law, not less than two of these judges shall be assigned to hold court in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Under our system of checks and balances where the legislative, the executive, and the judicial branches share the powers of the Government, it is the responsibility of the Congress of the United States to enact laws and to provide the necessary courts to enforce these laws. But it has been over 6 years since the Congress has seen, in its wisdom, the need to provide additional judgeships to the southern district of Florida. Since that time a dramatic increase in population and a similar rise in the backlog of court cases lends support to the position that additional judges are necessary if the judicial system is not to be overburdened.

Statistics from the U.S. Department of Commerce and the Bureau of the Census show that Florida is now the most rapidly growing State in the Union and that the part of Florida which makes up the southern district of Florida is growing at a faster rate than the remainder of the State. It is the tremendous population growth in this area coupled with a marked increase in commercial activity —both foreign and domestic—which accounts for the unprecedented increase in civil and criminal filings in this court and the particular urgency of this legislation.

Even though there are seven authorized judgeships in the southern district of Florida the workload of this court has increased to the point where it is now one of the heaviest in the United States. The extent of this situation can be seen by comparing the activities of the southern district court with the four criteria establishing the need for new judgeships set forth in Report 94-387 of the omnibus district judgeship bill, S. 287. According to this report each judge should be responsible for no more than 400 case filings. Second, each judge should be responsible for not more than 358 terminations. Third, the bench time for each judge shall not exceed 110 days. And finally, the district shall have made efficient use of existing judges, supporting personnel, and procedural devices. Should the district exceed the limits defined in these criteria, it follows that new judgeships shall be created until compliance with the criteria has been satisfied.

Using the criterion that 400 cases is the proper limit for a single judge to receive, it follows that in a district wherein there are 7 judges, there should be a maximum of 2,800 case filings during any one year. However, between fiscal years 1970 and 1976 the number of civil and criminal cases filed in the southern district court jumped from 2,204 to 4,755. This averages out to approximately 14½ percent increase per year since fiscal year 1970. Translated into caseload per judgeship, the number of civil and criminal cases that each judge in the district must handle has risen from 441 in fiscal year 1970—when there were only 5 judgeships—to 679 in fiscal year 1976. In other words, the judges in the southern district of Florida have been literally staggered by the weight of an increasingly growing caseload.

Just as significant are the figures denoting the number of cases terminated and the bench time per judge. In fiscal year 1975 each judge in the southern district of Florida terminated an average of 447 cases. This is well above the national average of 371 and goes even further beyond the recommendation of 358 per judge as stated in Report 94-387. Also the judges spent an average of 112 days in trial plus 142 bench days per judge on other court proceedings. This far exceeds the recommended limit of 110 days bench time per judge. All in all, there can be no question that the southern district of Florida has made an efficient use of existing judges, supporting personnel, and procedural devices.

Just as startling are those figures which indicate that the situation is becoming increasingly worse. During fiscal year 1975 there were 3,694 cases filed in the southern district of Florida. Of these 2,853 were civil cases and 841 were criminal cases. This total breaks down to 528 cases filed per judgeship of which 408 were civil cases and 120 were criminal filings. The court's civil filings for fiscal year 1975 increased by 822 cases—41 percent—over the filings for 1974—2,853 versus 2,031. Between fiscal year 1974 and 1975 the overall caseload per judgeship increased by 38 percent from 395 to 528. These figures represent the second largest increase of any district in the country. Even more disturbing are the figures for the first 6 months of fiscal year 1976. During this period, the civil case filings have increased by an additional 92 percent over the corresponding period in 1975—2,336 versus 1,218. The criminal cases filed during this same period have increased 21 percent over the first 6 months of fiscal year 1975.

From the standpoint of each criteria established by Report 94-387 the needs of the southern district of Florida require that the additional judgeships requested in this legislation be granted.

The urgency of this particular legislation is further underscored by the projected increase anticipated for the 1976–80 quadrennial. Using the average percentage increase for the years 1970–76—14½ percent per year—as a basis, it can be projected that the number of civil and criminal cases filed in the southern district of Florida will increase from 4,755 in fiscal year 1976 to 8,172 in fiscal year 1980. When translated in caseload per judgeship, the number increases from 679 cases per judge in fiscal year 1976 to 1,167 in fiscal year 1980. It should be remembered that 400 cases is the recommended limit. And on the basis of this recommendation, it follows that the southern district of Florida already needs 12 judgeships and will require 20 in fiscal year 1980 if the projections are correct.

Attention must also be paid to the report of the Director of the Administrative Office to the Judicial Conference of the United States. In this report the Director revealed case filings in the various district courts across the Nation, along with the number of active judges sitting in each court and the percentage of increase in civil filings in each district during the first 6 months of fiscal year 1975. The following figures are taken from the Director's report:

Court	First half fiscal year 1976	Percent increase over fiscal year 1975	Authorized judgeships
N.Y. South (New York)	3,619	14.1	27
Ill. North (Chicago)	2,213	12.2	13
Penn. East (Philadelphia)	1,883	10.2	19
Fla. South (Miami)	2,336	91.8	7

States to order emergency deliveries and transportation of natural gas to deal with existing or imminent shortages by providing assistance in meeting requirements for high-priority uses; to provide authority for short-term emergency purchases of natural gas; and for other purposes," agrees to a conference requested by the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. STEVENSON, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. JOHNSTON, Mr. PEARSON, and Mr. STEVENS to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

The message also announced that on February 2, 1977, the Senate agreed to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 474) entitled "An act to authorize the President of the United States to order emergency deliveries and transportation of natural gas to deal with existing or imminent shortages by providing assistance in meeting requirements for high-priority uses; to provide authority for short-term emergency purchases of natural gas; and for other purposes."

SIX MORE WEEKS OF WINTER

(Mr. MURTHA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, an extremely important development occurred early this morning concerning the Nation's energy crisis.

A key to Government planning has involved estimating how much more winter weather the Nation could expect. The most definitive prediction yet made occurred this morning at 7:27 when Punxsutawney Phil emerged from his burrow and saw his shadow, insuring 6 more weeks of winter.

I will stake my predictions on Punxsutawney Phil more firmly than any U.S. Weather Service forecast. I hope my colleagues and Dr. Schleisinger will take note of this new fact as we shape emergency energy legislation.

For the RECORD, Mr. Speaker, I wish to read the official proclamation from Punxsutawney, Pa., on the events this morning, and the prediction of Punxsutawney Phil.

Hear ye, hear ye, to all faithful followers assembled here on Gobbler's Nob, and to all believers around the world, I, Charles M. Erhard, Jr., President of the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club, hereby proclaim that his Imperial Majesty, King Phillip, emerged from his snow covered burrow at 7:27 this morning.

Braving the blast of Arctic winds only long enough to cast a long dark shadow, the King of all weather prognosticators quickly raced back into the warmth of his official residence, so there will be six more weeks of winter, but the time will go fast. That is the official word today from the weather capital of the world, Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, the home of the only reliable weather forecasting groundhog.

THE 1976 WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT

(Mr. PRICE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PRICE. Mr. Speaker, one of the truly outstanding civic leaders in my congressional district, Dr. Lillian A. Parks, has been chosen by the St. Louis Globe-Democrat as a winner of a 1976 Woman of Achievement Award.

This is an honor richly deserved by Dr. Parks, who is administrator in charge of secondary curriculum in School District 189.

Lillian Parks has been an educator for nearly 25 years, having taught on every level from preschool through college.

The list of her civic accomplishments reflects her sincere commitment to her community in diverse social, educational, and charitable endeavors. The addition of a Woman of Achievement Award could have gone to no more deserving person than Lillian Parks. I am indeed proud to know that such outstanding individuals are at work in my district.

IN DEFENSE OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S NOMINATION OF PAUL WARNKE

(Mr. DOWNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOWNEY. Mr. Speaker, I had not intended to speak on the President's nomination of Mr. Warnke for the directorship of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, but I feel compelled, since my colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. STRATTON), made some disparaging remarks concerning that gentleman, to stand up here and say that I think the President's decision is an excellent one.

I would point out that the question of arms control in this country has not been as public as it should be, and it is my hope that with Mr. Warnke at the directorship of that Agency we will be able to discuss meaningful questions of limited nuclear war and arms control. I think he is an excellent choice, and I hope the Senate confirms him quickly.

COMMISSION ON ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW CAN DEFINE "EARNED INCOME"

(Mr. OBEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, as the Members know, one of the task forces of the Commission on Administrative Review has made recommendations involving congressional ethics. We are getting a great number of questions asking exactly what our interpretation is of the term, "earned income."

I would suggest that any Member of the House who has more than a passing interest in that subject and does indeed want to know what we are recommending call our Commission phone number, which is 5-3543, and get a definition of that term from our staff. I would suggest that the Members talk with either Dr. Cooper, Mr. Katz, or Mr. Terry.

Mr. Speaker, I repeat again for the benefit of the Members, the phone number is 5-3543.

THE NEW CARVER POTATO

(Mr. NICHOLS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NICHOLS. Mr. Speaker, world demand for agricultural products continues to increase at a staggering rate. Improved farming techniques and agricultural research are helping the farmer to meet this rising demand and some of our most dramatic accomplishments are being achieved in our smaller colleges.

Following the legacy of the famous scientist, George Washington Carver, the horticulture department at Tuskegee Institute, a predominantly black college in my district, has developed two new hybrids of the sweet potato which hold much promise for both improved yields and improved quality than present varieties.

The two new sweet potato cultivars—the Carver and the Rojo Blanco are the first to ever be developed in Alabama; the first to be developed, tested on a regional basis, named and released under certification by Tuskegee Institute and to my knowledge the first to be developed solely by a black institution.

The Rojo Blanco is a red skin, white flesh sweet potato, a favorite among the Spanish Americans. For some time there has been a marketable need for a new type red skin, white flesh sweet potato and the development of the Rojo Blanco will fill this need.

The release of the Carver potato is even more exciting. Research indicates that this new potato has greater crop yields and is more resistant to disease and insects than the presently utilized Centennial or Jewel potato. With these new improved qualities, scientists and some food experts predict that the Carver will replace other types of sweet potatoes in America and around the world.

The development of the Carver and the Rojo Blanco underlines the outstanding work achieved at Tuskegee Institute. Under the direction of college president, Dr. L. H. Foster and with the scientific instruction and research of Dr. Booker T. Whatley, this outstanding Alabama college is addressing the agricultural problems of Alabama, the United States, and the world. Their work and dedication is to be commended.

POINTING OUT DEFECTS IN RESOLUTION TO REESTABLISH SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

(Mr. MICHEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MICHEL. Mr. Speaker, the latest resolution seeking to reestablish the Select Committee on Assassinations, House Resolution 222 is just as bad, if not worse, than House Resolution 9.

In our appearance before the Rules Committee we questioned the loosely drawn, broad language dealing with legislative purpose and now I find the new resolution, rather than tightening up the language, actually adds language dealing with "disclosure and sharing of informa-

Mr. Lueders' letter is indeed a graphic depiction of the problem that many homeowners face in trying to obtain the necessary insurance. While Fair Plans may not be the overall answer they are at the present the best solution that we have to offer, and because of that we must continue the operations of these facilities.

Mr. Speaker, I would hope that during the year extension of these programs that consideration be given to extending the coverage offered by the Fair Plans so that a wide range of insurance policies can be purchased through the plan, including the basic homeowners package and in areas where insurance underwriting is limited that the plan be allowed to offer automobile insurance.

There is an aspect of the Fair Insurance Plan that bothers me and that is the dumping situation. It is my belief that too many insurance companies rather than writing the insurance directly, are forcing customers to the Fair Plan program in order to get a higher premium. In order to overcome this, I suggest that the Fair Plan's operation, and underwriting, be removed from the insurance companies and transferred to the Federal Government. I take a back seat to no one in the belief in the free enterprise system, but when the free enterprise system does not function properly then Government must step in to fill the need. And that is exactly what should happen with the Fair Plan. As the insurance companies do not want to write insurance directly, there should be no problem with the Government taking over the business since the Government will not be interfering in any area in which the insurance companies now function.

Clearly, there is a great deal of precedent for the Federal Government operating the Fair Plan. The Government insures banks, savings and loans, credit unions, farmers, and even home mortgages. There is no reason why we cannot extend that coverage to individual homeowners.

And, of course, the Government is involved in writing crime insurance, a program which grew out of legislation that I authored. While there are only 30,000 crime insurance policies in force today, I still have a strong feeling that the program is vitally important to many businesses and homeowners. We will never be able to find out the number of crime insurance policies that were written by private industry solely to keep the customer away from the Government program. If the Government program has served no other purpose than to spur renewal in private crime insurance then that fact alone makes the program successful.

I have found through informal sampling, that most homeowners and small businessmen are not aware of the existence of the Federal crime insurance. The biggest fault for this lack of knowledge mostly lies with the insurance industry, because it is that industry that is charged with selling the policies. There has been no effort on the part of the insurance companies to publicize this program.

I have offered a number of suggestions to HUD for encouraging sales of crime insurance. Since it has been felt that the insurance industry is not doing a good job of selling the policies as agents for the Federal Government, why not let the Federal Government market the insurance directly. There is no reason why policies cannot be sold through the Small Business Administration, the Veterans' Administration in its housing programs, the Federal Housing Administration, and through federally insured lenders making home mortgages.

Almost monthly I am approached by some company or someone with a plan to market the crime insurance more effectively. A number of these plans anticipate a direct mail marketing of the crime insurance. My response to all of these plans has been that I will support any plan that will make the insurance more readily available to the public.

I would hope that during the 1-year extension period which is being recommended, that the Department of Housing and Urban Development will come up with bold new concepts for marketing the crime insurance and as I have suggested earlier, perhaps even moving the Fair Plan setup into the direct marketing field with the Federal Government becoming the underwriter for both programs.

It was my understanding that one of the insurance groups that testified today took no position on the extension of the crime insurance. I think that position typically reflects the attitude of the industry toward this program. The insurance companies fought the program from its inception and has done nothing to promote the program. So it is quite fitting that industry would not fight for an extension of this much needed insurance program.

In basic terms, Mr. Speaker, what I am saying is—let us have an understanding with the insurance industry. Private industry can write the type of policy which it feels it is best suited to handle, and most of those policies unfortunately are insuring against flood damage in the desert. In those areas of coverages where the insurance industry does not wish to participate, then let the Federal Government step in and do the job.

Insurance is a necessity today and if we cut people off from insurance then we are greatly limiting the role of our citizens in our society.

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS MEETS

The SPEAKER. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GONZALEZ) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, today, the House Select Committee on Assassinations held its first meeting. I wish to provide for the Members of this House the text of my remarks:

BUDGET DISCUSSION

We are confronted with a serious budget problem. It is, in fact, a problem that grows and compounds with each passing moment. We must clearly understand this, and deal with it without delay.

We are restricted, under terms of the House Resolutions 222 and 11 to expenditures not exceeding the amount spent in December, 1976, until and unless a regular funding resolution is approved.

Under those terms, the Committee has $64,000 per month available to it. The Committee cannot meet its obligations during that amount of money, for the simple reason that Mr. Sprague, without my knowledge, consent or approval, arranged for the employment of some 20 persons effective January 1. Had I known of this action, I would have objected in the most strenuous terms, because I know that no Committee depends its employment by 30 percent without some clear knowledge of what its ability to pay is. At that time, the only certain funds that we had were amounts that could be advanced under a continuing resolution.

If staff employees were to receive the salaries that they were promised by Mr. Sprague, Committee costs for personnel, alone, would be exceeding our total funds by $40,000 per month. Committee personnel have taken a 35 percent reduction in pay, simply so that everyone could have something. However, they had no choice in the matter; the Committee on House Administration would have imposed reductions, inasmuch as they can only pay out what is authorized.

The Committee today has few funds to pay its operating costs. January bills have not been paid, but clearly exceed the $770 available. The only way that the January bills can be paid, or for February expenses to be paid, is to reduce staff expenses. This can be done either by reducing salaries further, or reducing the number of personnel. I have a letter from the House Administration Committee regarding this.

After Mr. Sprague last week failed to produce a plan for any kind of reduction in force, I directed him in writing to provide me with a plan of operation whereby the Committee could avoid a reduction in force and still reduce expenses enough to live within the amount of funds we have available. I specified that this plan must be precise, and I directed that it be delivered to me no later than Noon Friday, February 11. This allowed a couple of days for Mr. Sprague to perform.

I finally received his response about midday Monday, and incidentally, it was backdated to February 11. The "precise plan" that I asked for was as follows, and I quote:

"adhering to the pay reductions the staff has agreed to, keeping spending expenses to a minimum, and having the Committee quickly approve a new budget which can be submitted to Congress."

It is hard to imagine anything less responsive than that.

Committee Members will appreciate that no one can assure how much money we will receive for continued operation. We can, however, be sure that we have to pay our bills until we do know what our budget will be. We have no choice but to live within our available funds.

I am willing to explore the possibility, however remote it may be, of covering some of the shortfall by trying to arrange for permission to use any leftover funds from the last Congress to apply against current expenses. This would not, in my judgment, cover our shortfall, but I am willing to explore every possible avenue.

I am also willing to approach the House Administration Committee to ask for a supplemental to cover our shortfall. In the event it is not possible to work out our problems in any other way. However, there is a condition to this: we must make a good faith effort on our own part. We must be able to show that every expense is fully justified. We must be able to show that every person on that staff is qualified, and we must be able to show that every person on that staff is essential. I am gathering as much detailed information as I can, but Mr. Sprague's non-

[illegible] supplying information to [illegible] in making judgment in that the House [illegible] Committee would not [illegible] additional funds for the Committee until salaries are realigned and pending questions adequately justified.

Before we pass on to a discussion of this, I want to emphasize one point: with each passing day, the Committee's financial problems grow deeper. Each day, there are more unpaid bills, and unless circumstances change, every cent of those bills must be paid out of personnel costs—either in the form of additional salary cuts, personnel cuts, or both. Each day we delay, the problem increases, and at a compounded rate.

Keep in mind this situation, and the imperative need to act. There is no way to avoid the problem. It is our responsibility.

I want you to bear in mind that paying the bills for January, let alone February, as I said before, will very likely involve personnel or further salary reductions. We must in any event act within the next day or two.

I know that some of my colleagues were alarmed by what they saw as my precipitate action last week. Let me say simply that when I see a rattlesnake on the doorstep, I don't hesitate; I stomp on it, and answer questions later. This may not always seem elegant, but it is explainable and understandable.

I am prepared to discuss this matter at this time.

I had no alternative but to remove Mr. Sprague. The circumstances were such that I had to move at once, with precious little opportunity to leisurely inform Members of the action or reasons for it. I did everything within my power to inform you at once, and to spell out, in as much detail as possible, the reasons for my action.

Mr. Sprague apparently felt that he had the full authority of a Member of the House, and the full authority normally exercised by the Chairman and the Committee. He explained his general penchant for acting the part of a Member—appearing before the Caucus, wanting to appear before the Committee on Rules—by saying, on January 11, (quote) "they wanted someone to take the leadership role . . . Fine, I am glad to do it." Regardless of the fact that employees of the Committee are responsible to the Congress, Sprague's instructions were: "Do not discuss our business here with Members of Congress. If you know something about a Member of this Committee, come to me." And, regardless of the fact that only a Member can employ or terminate anyone, Sprague made that assurance that he—not me, not the Committee—would make good on any pay cuts, by raising salaries once the Committee got a regular appropriation. He assigned the staff that he was in complete charge of the Committee. On February 3, he told the staff:

There may have been some feelings of uncertainty around this office about who runs things—a kind of headless horse. But the head is right here—on me. I am laying out the lines of command in this office . . . If they (Members of Congress) want to communicate with you, they will do it through me. . . . I do not want you running back and forth with Congressional offices as to what is happening here. If I find that kind of thing going on, they will be fired."

If any one on this Committee can believe that this was anything other than insubordination, and usurpation of any and every authority of this Committee, then there is no such thing as insubordination and usurpation.

Sprague did not believe that this Committee, let alone its Chairman, should—or was—running anything. He was in charge, and he knew. Congress did not appoint him—he did. Employees of the Committee were not responsible to the Committee, but to him and him alone.

Sprague did not wish for anyone of the Committee to know about this meeting. He told the staff: "I only hope all this remains in the confines of the staff." I found out about the meeting that evening, very late. The next day, February 9, another such pep rally occurred, but there are no records of it, since Sprague demanded that no records be kept—unlike all other cases. The reasons were clear. At that next pep rally, he literally dared the Chairman to try and remove him. "As I said, when I see a rattlesnake, I react.

Any Member who knew what I did would not have hesitated; Sprague had to be stopped, then and there, and I did what I had to do.

Aside from insubordination and a clear effort to usurp the power of the Committee and its Chairman, Mr. Sprague is guilty of failure to perform. I presented Mr. Sprague a series of requests in writing, with deadlines that he had to meet, in order for the Committee to be prepared to proceed about its business in an orderly manner. None of the necessary deadlines were met, information he did finally provide, such as a request for a detailed plan of operation without salary cuts or pay cuts, which he claimed to be possible. You already know that he produced nothing except empty phrases, merely leaving it up to the Committee to obtain more money—how, he did not say.

Much more serious, however, is the fact that Mr. Sprague has placed the Committee in serious financial condition by irresponsibly employing a large number of people without any indication of where the funds to pay them would come from. This action, which took place without my prior knowledge, let alone approval, led directly to the 25 percent salary reduction imposed on the staff during the month of January. This led likewise to the ever-growing inability of the Committee to meet any costs, even the most minimal and essential operating expenses.

Even though I have taken strong action to reduce costs, including placing control equipment on telephones, there is no way to meet all expenses without further reductions in personnel costs.

In part, however, the Committee's financial ills are traceable to a scandalous inflation of salaries. Even though some employees of the Committee accepted pay cuts to join the staff, about two dozen employees were placed on the payroll at salaries vastly exceeding their last previous employment. Six of nine employees from the Washington office of my predecessor are on the Committee payroll. Most of these, I am sure, are well qualified, hard-working persons, but one, at least, received an astonishing 87 percent pay increase. That person previously worked at a salary of $16,000, but was placed on the payroll by Mr. Sprague at a salary of $30,000. Another employee previously earned $14,000, but was being paid at the rate of $34,000—a 65 percent increase. And another employee received a 60 percent increase—from $10,000 to $16,000. One received a 33 percent increase—from $11,000 to $15,000. Another received a 50 percent increase—from $20,000 to $30,000. One received a 41 percent increase—from $24,000 to $34,000, and another a 40 percent increase—from $20,000 to $28,000.

I submit that there is no way this Committee could accept, let alone defend, this kind of salary inflation. There is no other word for it except scandalous.

As I am Chairman of this Committee, I cannot defend it as long as this kind of rip-off exists. Salaries of this kind are an embarrassment to the Committee, a liability to it, and an insult to the House and to the American people. I must have the authority to clear this situation up immediately: I ask it, and I demand it.

If we are unwilling to confront this and deal with it head-on, there is no hope for this Committee. Need I say more?

It is plain—and I can document what I have said—that Mr. Sprague intended to brook no control from this Committee or its Chairman. He was dishonest, deceitful, and irresponsible in his conduct with the staff and toward the Committee. His advocacy of what amounts to a budgetary blank check would not be justified last winter, and, clearly, cannot be justified today, especially in light of what we now know about the salary structure he was perfectly willing and happy to foist upon me and you.

Mr. Sprague, nor in fact any other member of the staff was required by the former Chairman to ever file a financial disclosure statement, and when I requested he file such a statement, he replied that certain procedures had to be honored first.

I am willing to do this, but I believe that any employee who claims to be acting in good faith—would be more than willing to file a financial disclosure report of his own free will—especially when that person occupies as sensitive a position as that of Mr. Sprague.

In connection with this, let me point out to my Colleagues—Rule XI, Clause 5(a)(2)(B) provides that "professional members of each standing Committee shall not engage in any work other than Committee business."

Mr. Sprague appears to maintain an active law practice, with offices at 1622 Locust Street, in Philadelphia, Pa., and, furthermore, is engaged in the teaching of law at Temple University, also in Philadelphia. It is plain that since the Rules of the House apply to this Committee, Mr. Sprague is in clear violation of the requirement that we have no outside employment. I checked as recently as yesterday, and Mr. Sprague's office reported that he was not in, but would be available during the weekend. The New York Times reported last Saturday morning that Mr. Sprague had taught his usual law course at Temple University on Friday evening.

It seems at least possible—if not likely—that Mr. Sprague, owing to his considerable outside activities, stands in violation of Rule XLIII, Clause 3, and I can assure my Colleagues that he most certainly is in violation of Clause 1 of that Rule, in that he has brought embarrassment and humiliation to this Committee and the House by repeated misconduct, and it is my profound and unhappy duty to report all this to you by way of justifying my actions of last week.

I believe that based on what I have told you, and I can furnish any additional details you may desire; that I have amply shown that no Member of this Congress, let alone a Chairman responsible to it, could for one instant tolerate the kind of insubordination, usurpation and outright malfeasance that it was my sorry lot to discover and be compelled to stop six days ago.

I end as I began: there may be those who wondered at my haste, but when one spies a rattlesnake on the doorstep, there is no time to hesitate. I did not hesitate to act, and in the same circumstances, I would not hesitate again.

LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH SPAYING AND NEUTERING CLINICS FOR DOGS AND CATS

The SPEAKER. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. ST GERMAIN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ST GERMAIN. Mr. Speaker, today, February 16, 1977, I am introducing legislation to provide Federal loans to enable cities and counties throughout the United States with populations of at least 200,000 persons, to establish and operate low-cost, nonprofit clinics for the

social security benefit claims at all levels of the determination and appeal process as follows: Initial claims, 90 days; reconsideration requests, 90 days; hearing requests, 120 days; and Appeals Council reviews, 120 days. The act would also give claimants the right to request and to receive emergency payments within 10 days, based on their earnings records, if they have not received notification of decisions on their claims within the specified periods of time, or if their claims have been approved but their benefit payments delayed.

H.R. 5151

A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to require that procedures be established for the expedited replacement of undelivered benefit checks, to require that decisions on benefit claims be made within specified periods and to require that payment of benefits on approved claims begin promptly

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the "Social Security Rights Act."

EXPEDITED REPLACEMENT OF LOST, STOLEN, OR UNDELIVERED BENEFIT CHECKS

SEC. 2. (a) Section 205 of the Social Security Act is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new subsection:

"Expedited Replacement of Lost, Stolen, or Undelivered Benefit Checks

"(r) In any case in which the check issued to or for an individual in payment of any benefit due him or her under this title is lost or stolen or for any other reason has not reached him or her on the day regularly fixed for delivery of such check or within five days thereafter, such individual may submit to the Secretary written request (in such manner and form as the Secretary shall prescribe in regulations) for the issuance of a new check in replacement thereof; and the Secretary shall take such action as may be necessary to assure that within no more than ten days after such request is submitted, either (1) the replacement check is issued and delivered to such individual as requested or (2) a full and complete explanation of the reasons why the individual is not entitled to the check for which he or she has requested a replacement shall be furnished to the individual in writing.".

(b) Section 205(q) of such Act is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new paragraph:

"(8) Nothing in this subsection shall require any individual to within the procedures established under paragraph (7) with respect to any allegation or claim, in lieu of the procedures established under subsection (r), if the allegation or claim is one to which subsection (r) is applicable.".

TIME LIMITATIONS FOR DECISIONS ON BENEFIT CLAIMS AND FOR PAYMENT OF BENEFITS ON APPROVED CLAIMS

SEC. 3. Section 205(b) of the Social Security Act is amended—

(1) by inserting "(1)" after "(b)"; and

(2) by adding at the end thereof the following new paragraphs:

"(2)(A) Subject to subparagraph (B)—

"(i) the decision of the Secretary as to the rights of any individual initially applying for a payment under this title shall be made within ninety days after application for such payment is filed;

"(ii) the decision of the Secretary on a reconsideration of any decision described in clause (i) shall be made within ninety days after application for such reconsideration is filed;

"(iii) the decision of the Secretary upon any hearing held with respect to any decision described in clause (i), whether affirming, modifying, or reversing such decision, shall be made within one hundred and twenty days after the request for such hearing is filed; and

"(iv) the decision of the Secretary upon any Appeals Council review held with respect to any decision described in clause (i), whether affirming, modifying, or reversing such decision, shall be made within one hundred and twenty days after the request for such a review is filed or after the Appeals Council itself makes a decision to review a decision.

"(B) If any decision with respect to the right of an individual to any monthly benefit under this title is not made within the period specified in the applicable clause of subparagraph (A), such individual shall upon request (and within ten days of making such request) be paid an amount equal to such monthly benefit as determined solely on the basis of such individual's application and the applicable record of wages and self-employment income; and if such decision remains unmade at the end of any calendar month beginning after the close of such period, such individual shall upon request (and within ten days of making such request) be paid an additional amount equal to such benefit as so determined.

"(C) Amounts paid to an individual under subparagraph (B) shall in no event be considered overpayments for purposes of section 204.

"(3) Whenever an individual claims to monthly benefits under this title is approved, payment of such benefits shall begin no later than the day regularly fixed for delivery of benefit checks in the second month following the month in which the claim was approved. If the benefit check is not received by such individual on such day or within the succeeding five days thereafter, such individual shall upon request (and within ten days of making such request) be paid an amount equal to the monthly benefit so approved; and if the benefit check is not received by such individual on the day regularly fixed for delivery of checks in any subsequent months or within five days thereafter, such individual shall upon request (and within ten days of making such request) be paid an additional amount equal to the monthly benefit so approved.".

EFFECTIVE DATES

SEC. 4. The amendments made by section 2 shall apply with respect to checks issued in payment of amounts due for months after the month in which this Act is enacted. The amendments made by section 3 shall apply with respect to applications (for payment or reconsiderations) and requests (for hearings or appeals Council Review) made, and claims approved, on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(Mr. KOCH asked and was given permission to extend his remarks at this point in the RECORD and to include extraneous matter.)

[Mr. KOCH's remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

(Mr. KOCH asked and was given permission to extend his remarks at this point in the RECORD and to include extraneous matter.)

[Mr. KOCH's remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

(Mr. KOCH asked and was given permission to extend his remarks at this point in the RECORD and to include extraneous matter.)

[Mr. KOCH's remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

RULES OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS AS ADOPTED MARCH 9, 1977

(Mr. STOKES asked and was given permission to extend his remarks at this point in the RECORD and to include extraneous matter.)

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following rules adopted by the Select Committee on Assassinations:

RULE 1—GENERAL PROVISIONS

1.1 The Rules of the House, and in particular the Committee rules enumerated in Clause 2 of Rule XI, are the rules of the Select Committee on Assassinations, to the extent applicable, and by this reference are incorporated. Any subcommittee shall be part of the committee, and subject to the authority and direction of the committee and to its rules so far as applicable.

RULE 2—MEETINGS

2.1 The regular meeting time of the Committee is 10:00 a.m. on every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday of each month when the House is in session. Additional meetings may be called by the Chairman as he may deem necessary or at the request of a majority of the Committee in accordance with Clause 2(c) of Rule XI of the House of Representatives.

2.2 The Committee and any subcommittee thereof may not sit, without special leave, while the House is reading a measure for amendment under the five-minute rule.

2.3 In accordance with Clause 2(g) of Rule XI, each meeting of the Committee or any subcommittee thereof, shall be open to the public except when the Committee or subcommittee, in open session and with a majority present determines by roll call vote that all or part of the remainder of the meeting shall be closed to the public: *Provided However*, that no persons other than Members of the committee, staff, congressional staff or they may authorize, shall be present at any meeting which has been closed to the public.

2.4 *Record votes.* A roll call vote of the Committee may be had on the request of one Member. The result of each roll call vote shall be recorded and the record shall be made available for inspection by the public at reasonable times at the Committee office. Such record shall include a description of the amendment, motion, order or other proposition; the name of each Member voting for or against, and whether by proxy or in person, and the Members present but not voting.

2.5 *Quorum.* One-third of the committee shall constitute a quorum for the purposes of transacting business other than reporting. However, a quorum for the purpose of taking testimony and receiving evidence by the committee or a subcommittee shall consist of two Members.

2.6 *Records.* It shall be the duty of the Clerk and Staff Director to keep or cause to be kept a verbatim transcript of all committee or subcommittee proceedings, including the record of votes on any matter on which a record vote is taken and of all quorum calls together with all motions, points of order, parliamentary inquiries, rulings of the chair and appeals therefrom. The record shall show those Members present at each meeting.

2.7 *Proxies.* A vote by any Member in the committee or in any subcommittee may be cast by proxy, but such proxy must be in writing for use during each roll call in which such Member's proxy is to be voted. Each proxy shall designate the Member who is to execute the proxy authorization and shall be limited to a specific measure or matter and any amendments or motions pertaining

thereto: except that a Member may authorize a general proxy only for motions to recess, adjourn or other procedural matters. Each proxy to be effective shall be signed by the Member assigning his vote and shall contain the date and time of day that the proxy is signed. Proxies may not be counted for a quorum. The Member does not have to appear in person to present the proxy.

2.6 *Notice of Meetings.* The Chairman, in the case of hearings to be conducted by the committee, and the appropriate subcommittee chairman, in the case of hearings to be conducted by a subcommittee, shall make public announcement of the date, place, and subject matter of any hearing to be conducted on any measure or matter at least 1 week before the commencement of that hearing unless the committee determines that there is good cause to begin such hearing at an earlier date. In the latter event the chairman or the subcommittee chairman whichever the case may be shall make such public announcement at the earlier possible date. The Clerk of the committee shall promptly notify the Daily Digest Clerk of the Congressional Record as soon as possible after such public announcement is made.

RULE 3—HEARING PROCEDURES

3.1 *Participation of Members.* All other Members of the committee may have the privilege of sitting with any subcommittee during its hearing or deliberations and may participate in such hearings or deliberations, but no such Member who is not a Member of the subcommittee shall vote on any matter before such subcommittee.

3.2 *Interrogation of Witnesses.* Committee Members may question witnesses only when they have been recognized by the Chairman for that purpose, and only for a 5-minute period until all Members present have had an opportunity to question a witness. The 5-minute period for questioning a witness by any one Member can be extended only with the unanimous consent of all Members present. The questioning of witness in both full and subcommittee hearings shall be initiated by the Chairman, followed by the ranking minority party Member and all other Members alternating between the majority and minority. In recognizing Members to question witnesses, in this fashion, the Chairman shall take into consideration the ratio of the majority to minority Members present and shall establish the order of recognition for questioning in such a manner as not to disadvantage the Members of the majority. The Chairman may accomplish this by recognizing two majority Members for each minority Member recognized. The Chairman or any Member may recognize staff counsel for the purpose of questioning a witness for a period to be determined by the Chairman.

3.3 *Additional Rules.* The following additional rules shall apply to all investigative hearing procedures:

(1) The Chairman at an investigative hearing shall announce in the opening statement the subject of the investigation.

(2) A copy of the committee rules and this clause shall be made available to each witness.

(3) Witnesses at investigative hearings may be accompanied by their own counsel for the purpose of advising them concerning their constitutional rights.

(4) The Chairman may punish breaches of order and decorum, and of professional ethics on the part of counsel, by censure and exclusion from the hearings; and the committee may cite the offender to the House for contempt.

(5) If the committee determines that evidence or testimony at an investigative hearing may tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate any person, it shall—

(a) receive such evidence or testimony in executive session;

(b) afford such person an opportunity to voluntarily to appear as a witness; and

(c) receive and dispose of requests from such person to subpena additional witnesses.

(6) Except as provided in subparagraph (5), the Chairman shall receive and the committee shall dispose of requests to subpena additional witnesses.

(7) No evidence or testimony taken in executive session may be released or used in public sessions without the consent of the Committee.

(8) In the discretion of the Committee, witnesses may submit brief and pertinent sworn statements in writing for inclusion in the record. The Committee is the sole judge of the pertinency of testimony and evidence adduced at its hearing.

(9) A witness may obtain a transcript copy of his testimony given at a public session or, if given at an executive session, when authorized by the Committee.

3.4 Witness' counsel may submit written questions to be propounded to his or her client. Such questions will be asked by the Committee if a majority of the members consent.

3.5 Any objection by witness' counsel must be specifically ruled upon by the chairman or presiding member and such rulings shall be the ruling of the Committee, unless a disagreement thereon is expressed by a majority of the Committee present. In the case of a tie, the rule of the chair will prevail.

3.6 The Chairman of the Committee or subcommittee shall offer each witness and/or counsel, at the conclusion of his or her testimony, the opportunity to explain or amplify that testimony. The time afforded each witness or counsel shall not exceed 5 minutes, unless extended for good cause by the Chairman. The Committee or subcommittee may ask additional questions to the witness at the conclusion of any such explanation or amplification.

3.7 If a witness who desires counsel, but is financially or otherwise unable to secure counsel, informs the Committee in writing at least 48 hours in advance of his or her inability to retain counsel, the Committee will secure voluntary independent counsel for the witness. Such attempts by the Committee to secure counsel will not include the payment of fees to an attorney representing a witness at a Committee hearing. Failure of a witness to agree to the counsel provided will not excuse the witness from appearing and testifying.

3.8 A witness shall, upon request, be given an opportunity to inspect the preliminary transcript of his or her testimony to determine whether it was correctly transcribed and may be accompanied by his or her counsel during such inspection. If the testimony was given in executive session, the witness may only inspect the preliminary transcript at a location to be determined by the Committee. Any corrections in the transcription of the testimony of the witness which the witness desires to make shall be submitted in writing to the Committee within 5 days after the transcription of his or her testimony. However, changes shall only be made for the purpose of making minor grammatical corrections and editing, and not for the purpose of changing the substance of the testimony. Any questions arising with respect to such editing shall be decided by the Chairman.

The Committee will furnish the witness a copy of the transcript of his or her testimony when it is made public, at no expense.

RULE 4—STATEMENTS UNDER OATH BY DESIGNATED COUNSEL

4.1 Pursuant to House Resolution 222, Counsel on the committee staff may be designated to obtain statements from a witness who is placed under oath by an authority who is authorized to administer oaths in accordance with the applicable laws of the United States or of any State.

4.2 Subpoenas may not be utilized to obtain such statements. Counsel must advise the person that such statements are voluntary. The person giving a statement shall be provided a copy of that statement by designated counsel. Such statements are not to be considered testimony before the committee, but may be used by the committee or its staff in pursuing investigative leads and as a basis for questioning witnesses before the committee; and may be incorporated as part of the record only when (a) the person is dead or (b) the committee determines that in the interest of justice and economy, with due regard to the importance of presenting oral testimony, the statement should be so used.

4.3 Witnesses giving statements under oath to designated counsel must be advised by counsel that they have the right to have their own counsel while giving such statements.

RULE 5—SUBPENAS

5.1 *Procedure.* Subpenas shall be issued only in accordance with the procedure specified in Clause 2(m)(3)(A) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives. Each subpena shall be served with a copy of H. Res. 222, 95th Congress, first session, and a copy o fthe Rules of this Committee which are in effect at the time of issuance of the subpena.

5.2 *Power to Sit and Act; Subpena Power.*

(a) For the purpose of carrying out any of its functions and duties under House Resolution 222 the Committee or subcommittee is authorized (subject to subparagraph (b)(3) of this paragraph)—

(1) to sit and act at such times and places within the United States, including any Commonwealth or possession thereof, or in any other country, whether the House is in session, has recessed, or had adjourned, and to hold such hearings, and

(2) to require, by subpena or otherwise, the attendance and testimony of such witnesses and the production of such books, records, correspondence, memoranda, papers, documents, tangible objects, and other things of any kind, as it deems necessary. The Chairman of the Committee or subcommittee, or any Member designated by the Chairman, may administer oaths to any witness.

(b)(1) A subpena may be authorized and issued by the Committee or subcommittee under subparagraph (a)(2) in the conduct of any investigation or series of investigations or activities, only when authorized by a majority of the Members voting, a majority being present. The power to authorize and issue subpenas under subparagraph (a)(2) may be delegated to the Chairman of the Committee or subcommittee pursuant to such rules and under such limitations as the Committee or subcommittee may prescribe. Authorized subpenas shall be signed by the Chairman of the Committee or subcommittee or any Member designated by the Committee or subcommittee.

(c) Compliance with any subpena issued by the committee under subparagraph (a)(2) may be enforced only as authorized or directed by the House.

5.3 Except as otherwise specifically authorized by the Committee, no Member of the Committee or staff shall make public the name of any witness subpenaed by the Committee.

5.4 Witnesses shall be subpenaed at a reasonably sufficient time in advance of any hearing in order to give the witness an opportunity to prepare for the hearing, employ counsel should (a) he so desire, and/or produce the materials called for by a subpena duces tecum. The Committee shall determine, in each particular instance what period of time constitutes reasonable notice, however,

in no case shall it be less than 24 hours, unless the witness waives such notice.

RULE 6—BROADCASTING OF COMMITTEE HEARINGS AND MEETINGS AND GENERAL PRESS POLICY OF THE COMMITTEE

6.1 Upon approval by the Committee, all Committee and subcommittee hearings which are open to the public may be covered, in whole, or in part, by television broadcast, radio broadcast, and still photography, or by any such methods of coverage.

6.2 The Chairman of the full Committee or the Chairman of the subcommittees are authorized to determine on behalf of the full Committee or its subcommittees, respectively, whether hearings which are open may be broadcast, unless the committee or its subcommittees respectively by majority vote determine otherwise.

6.3 Permission for such coverage shall be granted only under the following conditions:

(1) Live coverage by radio or television shall be without commercial sponsorship.

(2) No witnesses served with a subpoena by the committee shall be required against his or her will to be photographed at any hearing or to give evidence or testimony while the broadcasting of that hearing, by radio or television, is being conducted. At the request of any witness who does not wish to be subjected to radio, television, or still photography coverage, all lenses shall be covered and all microphones used for coverage turned off.

(3) Not more than four television cameras, operating from fixed positions, shall be permitted in the room. The allocation among the television media of the positions of television cameras in the room shall be in accordance with fair and equitable procedures as devised by the Executive Committee of the Radio and Television Correspondents' Galleries.

(4) Television cameras shall be placed so as not to obstruct in any way the space between any witness giving evidence or testimony and any Member of the Committee or the visibility of that witness and that Member to each other.

(5) Television cameras shall not be placed in positions which obstruct unnecessarily the coverage of the hearing or meeting by the other media.

(6) Television and radio media equipment shall not be installed in, or removed from, the room while the committee is in session.

(7) Floodlights, spotlights, strobelights, and flashguns shall not be used, except that the television media may install additional lighting in the room, without cost to the government, in order to raise the ambient lighting level to the lowest level necessary to provide adequate television coverage at the then current state of the art.

(8) Not more than five press photographers shall be permitted to cover a hearing or meeting by still photography. In the selection of these photographers, preference shall be given to photographers from Associated Press Photos and United Press International Newspictures. If request is made by more than five of the media for coverage, that coverage shall be made on the basis of a fair and equitable pool arrangement devised by the Standing Committee of Press Photographers.

(9) Photographers shall not position themselves, at any time during the course of the hearing or meeting, between the witness table and the Members of the Committee.

(10) Photographers shall not place themselves in positions which obstruct unnecessarily the coverage by the other media.

(11) Television and radio media personnel shall be then currently accredited to the Radio and Television Correspondents' Galleries.

(12) Still photography personnel shall be then currently accredited to the Press Photographers' Gallery.

(13) Personnel providing coverage by the television and radio media and by still photography shall conduct themselves and their coverage activities in an orderly and unobtrusive manner.

6.4 The staff of the Committee shall not discuss with anyone outside the staff either the substance or procedure of their work or that of the Committee unless specifically authorized by the Chairman or the Subcommittee Chairman.

RULE 7—INVESTIGATIVE SUBPOENAS

7.1 *Tape Recordings.* No conversation of Committee Members or staff with any person shall be recorded without the prior knowledge and/or written consent of the person whose conversation is to be recorded. A transcribed copy of any recording so made will be furnished to the recorded party upon his or her request, at no expense to the recorded party.

7.2 (a) *Polygraphs.* No person will be required to take a polygraph test, nor shall any such tests be made or given without the specific, written authorization of the person concerned. No such tests may be made or given without the specific, prior and written authorization of a majority of the Committee or subcommittee, a majority being present. No such test may be used as a basis for a finding of fact, or be referred to in any public report or public hearing. Results of any such test shall not be disclosed to any person, other than the person tested, who is not a Member of the Committee or staff employee authorized by the Chairman. Nor shall the failure or agreement to take a polygraph test form the basis of any finding of fact, or be referred to in any public report or public hearing, or be otherwise publicly disclosed.

(b) *Voice Analysis.* No recording made with the permission of the recorded party pursuant to Rule 7.1 shall be subject to mechanical voice analysis without a written consent from the recorded party specifically authorizing such analysis. No such tests may be made or given without the specific, prior and written authorization of the Committee or subcommittee, a majority being present. Results of any such test shall not be disclosed to any person, other than the person tested, who is not a Member of the Committee or staff employee authorized by the Chairman. Neither the results of any such test nor the failure or agreement to take such test shall form the basis of any finding of fact, or be referred to in any public report or public hearing, or be otherwise publicly disclosed.

7.3 *Electronic Surveillance; Wiretapping.* There shall be no electronic surveillance or wiretapping of any person.

7.4 *Interrogations.* In all interrogations of prospective witnesses, committee investigators and counsel shall first identify themselves as representatives of the Select Committee on Assassinations of the United States House of Representatives and shall present official credentials issued by the Clerk of the House. The investigator or counsel shall advise each such person of the nature of the investigation being conducted.

7.5 Prior to the utilization of any investigative techniques not otherwise covered by these Rules, such techniques would be discussed and voted upon by the full Committee.

RULE 8—TRAVEL

8.1 *Travel of Member and Staff.*

(a) Consistent with the primary expense resolution and such additional expense resolutions as may have been approved, the provisions of this rule shall govern travel of Committee Members and staff. Travel to be reimbursed for any Member or any staff Member shall be paid only upon the prior authorization of the Chairman. Travel may be authorized by the Chairman for any Member and any staff Member in connection with the attendance of hearings conducted by the Committee or any subcommittee thereof and meetings, conferences, and investigations which involve activities or subject matter under the general jurisdiction of the Committee. Before such authorization is given, there shall be submitted to the Chairman in writing the following:

(1) the purpose of the travel;

(2) the dates during which the travel is to be made and the date or dates of the event for which the travel is being made;

(3) the location of the event for which the travel is to be made; and

(4) the names of Members and staff seeking authorization.

(b)(1) In the case of travel outside the United States of Members and staff of the Committee or of a subcommittee for the purpose of conducting hearings, investigations, studies, or attending meetings and conferences involving activities or subject matter under the legislative assignment of the Committee or pertinent subcommittee, prior authorization must be obtained from the Chairman. Before such authorization is given, there shall be submitted to the Chairman, in writing, a request for such authorization. Each request, which shall be filed in a manner that allows for a reasonable period of time for review before such travel is scheduled to begin, shall include the following:

(A) the purpose of the travel;

(B) the dates during which the travel will occur;

(C) the names of the countries to be visited and the length of time to be spent in each;

(D) an agenda of anticipated activity for each country for which travel is authorized together with a description of the purpose to be served and the anticipated jurisdiction involved; and staff

(E) the names of Members and staff for whom authorization is sought.

(2) Requests for travel outside the United States shall be submitted by the Chairman and shall be limited to Members and personnel employees of the Committee

(3) At the conclusion of any hearing, investigation, study, meeting or conference for which travel outside the United States has been authorized pursuant to this rule, each subcommittee (or Members and staff attending meeting or conference) shall submit a written report to the Chairman covering the activities and other pertinent observations or information gained as a result of such travel.

(c) Members and staff of the Committee performing authorized travel on official business shall be governed by applicable laws, resolutions, or regulations of the House and of the Select Committee on Assassinations pertaining to such travel

RULE 9—PROCEDURES, REGULATIONS AND RULES

9. The Rules, Regulations, and Procedures of the Select Committee on Assassinations shall be established, modified, amended or repealed only by a majority vote of the committee, a majority of the committee being present, provided that prior written notice of the proposed change has been provided each Member of the committee not less than 48 hours before those changes are to be discussed by the committee.

RULE 10—PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING SENSITIVE MATERIAL

10.1 Before the commencement of any presentation at which testimony will be heard or papers and things considered, each Committee Member will be furnished with a list of all papers and things that have been obtained by the Committee by subpoena or otherwise. No Member shall make the list or any part thereof public unless authorized by a majority vote of the committee, a quorum being present.

10.2 The chief counsel, after discussion

with the chairman and the ranking minority Member, shall initially recommend to the Committee the testimony, papers, and things to be presented to the Committee. The determination as to whether such testimony, papers, and things shall be presented in open or executive session shall be made pursuant to the rules of the House and of this Committee.

10.3 Before the Committee is called upon to make any disposition with respect to the testimony or papers and things presented to it, the Committee Members shall have a reasonable opportunity to examine all testimony, papers, and things that have been obtained by the inquiry staff. No Member shall make any of that testimony or those papers or things public unless authorized by a majority vote of the Committee, a quorum being present.

10.4. All examination of papers and things other than in a presentation shall be made in a secure area designated for the purpose. Copying, duplicating, or removal of classified or other material deemed sensitive by the Committee is prohibited except where authorized by a Member.

10.5 Any Committee Member may bring additional testimony, papers, or things to the Committee's attention.

10.6 Only testimony, papers, or things that are included in the record will be reported to the House; all other testimony, papers, or things will be considered as executive session material.

10.7 The Committee or its subcommittees will at all times endeavor to obtain access to full, complete and unedited material considered relevant for its investigations and now held by any local, state or federal criminal justice or intelligence agency.

Any agreements regarding Committee or subcommittee access to agency files made between the Committee and the appropriate local, state, or federal agency will be made by majority vote of the full Committee.

Rule 11—Rules for the Assassinations Inquiry Staff

In addition to rules of conduct for staff contained in other rules of this Committee and the House, the following rules shall apply.

11.1 Staff officers of the Committee shall operate under strict security precautions. One guard shall be on duty at all times to control entry. All persons entering the Committee area shall identify themselves.

11.2 Classified or other material the Committee deems sensitive shall be segregated in a secure storage area. They may be examined only at supervised reading facilities within the secure area. Copying or duplicating of such documents and other things is prohibited except upon the authorization of a Committee Member.

11.3 Access to classified information supplied to the committee shall be limited by the Committee and chief counsel to those Committee staff members with appropriate security clearances and a need to know and to a designated personal staff member of each Committee Member, that personal staff member also having the appropriate security clearances and a need to know.

11.4 Testimony taken or papers and things received by the staff shall not be disclosed or made public by the staff unless authorized by a majority of the Committee.

11.5 Executive session transcripts and records shall be available to designated staff for inspection in person but may not be released or disclosed to any other person without the consent of a majority of the Committee

11.6 The professional and clerical staff of the Committee shall be appointed and their remuneration determined in such manner as the Committee shall determine by a majority vote, a majority of the Committee being present, within the budget approved for such purposes by the Committee.

The professional and clerical staff of the Committee:

(A) shall be appointed without regard to race, creed, sex, or age, and solely on the basis of fitness to perform the duties of their respective positions;

(B) shall not be assigned any duties other than those pertaining to Committee business.

The Committee may terminate the services of any professional or clerical staff member by a majority vote, a majority of the Committee being present.

RULE 12—SUBCOMMITTEES

12.1 Each subcommittee is authorized to exercise all powers conferred on subcommittees by the Resolution establishing the Select Committee on Assassinations, including but not limited to the authority to meet, hold hearings, authorize subpenas, receive evidence, and report to the full Committee on all matters referred to it or under its jurisdiction. Subcommittee Chairman shall set dates for hearings and meetings of their respective subcommittees after consultation with the Chairman and other subcommittee Chairman with a view toward avoiding simultaneous scheduling of full Committee and subcommittee meetings or hearings whenever possible.

12.2 There shall be the following standing subcommittees of the Select Committee on Assassinations:

(a) Subcommittee on the Assassination of John F. Kennedy; and

(b) Subcommittee on the Assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. STUMP, for March 16 and 17, on account of official business.

Mr. KETCHUM (at the request of Mr. RHODES), for today and the balance of the week, on account of official business.

Mr. BOLAND, for the balance of the day and March 17, on account of official business.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina (at the request of Mr. WRIGHT), for today, on account of illness.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. LEACH) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous matter:)

Mr. KEMP, for 10 minutes, today.

Mr. CONABLE, for 10 minutes, today.

Mr. MCKINNEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida, for 10 minutes, today.

Mr. GRASSLEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DON H. CLAUSEN, for 15 minutes, today.

Mr. ASHBROOK, for 1 hour, on March 22, 1977.

Mr. RUDD, for 1 hour, on March 22, 1977.

Mr. STEERS, for 10 minutes, today.

Mr. MCDADE, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. BARNARD), to revise and extend their remarks, and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. SHARP, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ANNUNZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HEFTEL, for 10 minutes, today.

Mr. UDALL, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PERKINS, for 10 minutes, today.

Mr. DINGELL, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. VAN DEERLIN, for 5 minutes, today

Mr. ASPIN, for 15 minutes, today.

Mr. FLOOD, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BINGHAM, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. KAZEN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BONKER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WEISS, for 5 minutes, today.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

Mr. FORD of Michigan, and to include extraneous material notwithstanding the fact that it exceeds two pages of the RECORD and is estimated by the Public Printer to cost $1,691.

Mr. PEPPER, remarks to precede vote on Obey amendment.

Mr. PATTEN, remarks to precede vote on Obey amendment.

Mr. CONTE, remarks to precede vote on Obey amendment.

Mr. WON PAT, immediately following the remarks of Mr. PHILIP BURTON on his amendment offered in the Committee of the Whole today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. LEACH) and to include extraneous material:)

Mr. KEMP in three instances.

Mr. JOHNSON of Colorado.

Mr. DERWINSKI in three instances.

Mr. STEIGER.

Mr. MCKINNEY.

Mr. MCCLOSKEY.

Mr. HYDE.

Mr. RUDD in six instances.

Mr. STEERS in two instances.

Mr. MARTIN in two instances.

Mr. RINALDO.

Mr. SYMMS.

Mr. ANDERSON of Illinois in two instances.

Mr. GILMAN.

Mr. MCCLORY in three instances.

Mr. ASHBROOK.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. BARNARD) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. SOLARZ.

Mr. FARY.

Mr. GONZALEZ in three instances.

Mr. ANDERSON of California in three instances.

Mr. ROSE.

Mr. JACOBS in two instances

Mr. LE FANTE.

Mr. LONG of Maryland.

Mr. FISHER in two instances.

Mr. MAZZOLI in two instances.

Mr. MOAKLEY.

Mr. MCDONALD in four instances.

Mr. CHARLES H. WILSON of California in two instances.

Mr. HAMILTON.

Mr. SIMON.

Mr. BLOUIN.

Mr. EILBERG.

Mr. DRINAN in two instances.

Mr. BEVILL.

Mr. WHITE.

State, a Deputy Secretary of State; three Under Secretaries of State: one for Political Affairs, a second for Economic Affairs, and a third for Security Assistance; a Deputy Under Secretary for Management; and 14 Assistant Secretaries of State.

Of the Assistant Secretaries of State, all have regional or other administrative responsibilities. The jurisdiction of the Assistant Secretary for Inter-American Affairs covers all of South America, a large part of North America south of the United States, and the Caribbean. It does not include Canadian relations, which are under the Assistant Secretary for European Affairs, even though Canada is not a part of Europe and, since the 1931 Statute of Westminster, has been an independent nation.

In view of the evolving world situation and the growing importance of Western Hemispheric nations in the defense of Western civilization, the time is opportune for a long over-due demonstration of leadership of the United States in the Western Hemisphere from the Arctic to the Antarctic. This will include Canada, the Caribbean Basin countries and those of the Central American Isthmus.

As an important step in the reorganization of the Federal Government now being undertaken by President Carter, I would urge the statutory increase by the Congress of the rank of the Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs to that of Deputy Secretary of State for the Americas, who would report directly to the Secretary of State. To implement this proposal, I have introduced the following measure:

H.R. 4073

A bill to provide authorizations for the Department of State, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the "American Foreign Affairs Western Hemispheric Act".

It is the policy of Congress that, to foster and develop a consistent and comprehensive foreign policy, the foreign affairs agencies should recognize the uniqueness of relations which bind the United States of America to other countries and territories located geographically with it in the Western Hemisphere of the world. Known collectively as the Americas, these countries and territories extend from the Arctic to the Antarctic and are bound uniquely to one another.

Taking into account this situation, it is the sense of Congress that there should be located in the Department of State a Deputy Secretary for the Americas, responsible directly only to the Secretary of State.

SEC. 2. (a) For the reasons given in section 1 of this Act, the first section of the Act of May 26, 1949, as amended (22 U.S.C. 2652), is amended to read as follows: "That there shall be in the Department of State, in addition to the Secretary of State, a Deputy Secretray of State, a Deputy Secretary of State for the Americas, an Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, an Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs, an Under Secretary of State for Security Assistance, a Deputy Under Secretary of State for Management, and eleven Assistant Secretaries of State.

(b) The Deputy Secretary of State for the Americas shall answer directly to the Secretary of State, and to the Deputy Secretary of State, only when the latter is acting as Acting Secretary of State, in the absence of the Secretary of State and the Deputy Secretary of State for the Americas shall act as Acting Secretary of State."

(c) This Act shall come into force immediately upon enactment.

HEARINGS ON EMERGENCY CONTROLS ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC TRANSACTIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. BINGHAM) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to announce the commencement on March 29 of a series of hearings on "Emergency Controls on International Economic Transactions," to be held by the Subcommittee on International Economic Policy and Trade, which I chair. These hearings are on two bills which I have introduced: H.R. 1560, a bill to repeal section 5(b) of the Trading With the Enemy Act of 1917, and H.R. 2382, the Economic War Powers Act.

Section 5(b) of the Trading With the Enemy Act is a broad, open-ended emergency authority which goes back to 1917. Over the years, it has come to be used by the President for routine regulation of international economic transactions. Some of the activities currently carried on under this authority are trade embargoes on trade with North Korea, Cambodia, Vietnam, and Cuba, blocking of Chinese and East European assets, export controls on U.S. subsidiaries abroad, and enforcement of the Export Administration Regulations notwithstanding the lapse of the Export Administration Act last September 30.

The National Emergencies Act, enacted last year, terminated most emergency authorities, but exempted section 5(b) of the Trading With the Enemy Act from termination because of that section's importance to the day-to-day functioning of the Government. Under the terms of the National Emergencies Act, the Committee on International Relations is to study section 5(b) with a view to converting as much of the authority contained therein as possible to standard, nonemergency legislation. These hearings will contribute to that study.

Clearly section 5(b), which authorizes the President to do whatever he wants for as long as he wants without reference to Congress, is sloppy legislation. What should take its place? In its broadest sense, that is the question we will be asking in the subcommittee's hearings.

A partial answer lies in H.R. 2382, the Economic War Powers Act, which will also be the subject of these hearings. This bill would prescribe the conditions under which future trade embargoes could be imposed, continued in effect, and terminated, and spells out a role for Congress in these very important decisions.

I am giving active consideration to other possible alternatives to section 5 (b), and I urge anyone who wishes to present proposals to contact the subcommittee staff.

These hearings are directed at formulating a policy framework and more satisfactory procedures for any future use of economic sanctions in the foreign policy field. They are not for the purpose of examining the wisdom of existing embargoes.

On March 29, the subcommittee will hear three distinguished legal scholars. They are Prof. Stanley Metzger of Georgetown University Law School, Prof. Andreas F. Lowenfeld of New York University Law School, and Prof. Harold G. Maier of Vanderbilt University Law School. The hearing will take place at 2 p.m. in room 2200 of the Rayburn House Office Building.

We are urging the administration to give high-level consideration to these issues, and I hope soon to announce a further hearing with administration witnesses. We are also in contact with interested members of the public, who will be heard subsequently.

RULES OF PROCEDURE ADOPTED BY SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STOKES) is recognized for 10 minutes.

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, on March 7, 1977, the Select Committee on Assassinations adopted Rules of Procedure in accordance with the mandate of the House. These rules contain a stringent set of safeguards which are for the purpose of preserving the civil and constitutional rights of potential witnesses. These formal safeguards prevail both in field investigations and the formal sessions before the committee. The adopted rules which illustrate the extensive concern the committee has for the constitutional and civil rights of all prospective witnesses include rules that witnesses may be accompanied by an attorney and that the committee will provide a witness with an attorney if he is financially or otherwise unable to secure counsel; and that the attorney for a witness may submit written questions to the committee to be asked of his client.

Moreover, the rules provide strict investigative guidelines which provide that no witness shall be recorded without his prior knowledge and consent; that there will be no electronic surveillance or wiretapping of any person; that no witness be subjected to polygraph or voice-stress-analysis examination without specific written authorization of the witness and a majority of the committee or subcommittee; that the results of such tests, or the failure or agreement to take such tests, shall not be used as the basis of finding of fact or used in any report or at a public hearing; that in all field interrogations of prospective witnesses, committee counsel and investigators shall first identify themselves as representing the Select Committee on Assassinations, present official credentials, and advise each prospective witness of the nature of the investigation being conducted; and finally, that the use of any investigative technique must be specifically authorized by the full committee.

In addition, the committee has adopted rules to insure that classified and sensitive materials will be properly safe-

guarded, and which prohibit the staff from discussing committee business outside of the committee unless specifically authorized by the chairman or subcommittee chairman.

The rules as adopted will insure that the Select Committee on Assassinations will be able to conduct a full, complete, and effective investigation into the assassinations of President Kennedy and Dr. King, and that it will be conducted in a manner which is credible and will bring honor to this House.

Mr. Speaker, I anticipate that in the very near future the House will consider a resolution to recreate the Select Committee on Assassinations. In this regard, the committee and I would welcome the comments and suggestions of our colleagues relative to these rules.

The adopted rules will be printed in the RECORD pursuant to the rule today.

A REASONABLE RESPONSE TO THE SACCHARIN BAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. KRUEGER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KRUEGER. Mr. Speaker, the proposed ban on saccharin announced last week by the Food and Drug Administration points out the shortcomings of the so-called Delaney amendment to the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.

As you know, this amendment requires the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare to ban any food additive which, after "appropriate tests" is found to induce cancer in man or animal.

This amendment does not lodge any additional power in the FDA; that is, the FDA's power to ban food additives is not dependent upon the language of the Delaney amendment. It serves merely as a "red flag," which removes from the Secretary any authority to take less drastic steps than an outright ban against additives found to induce cancer after these "appropriate" tests.

Now, I notice in the Washington Post that the FDA is blaming its decision to ban saccharin upon the Congress, and in light of the existence of the Delaney amendment, there is no doubt but that a great deal of the responsibility for this action does lie here. I do think it my duty, however, to rise to a partial defense of the Congress by pointing out that HEW and FDA determine the meaning of the term "appropriate test"—subject to court review, to be certain—so that it is not entirely the Congress fault that the unfortunate fate of a few Canadian rats has had an equally unfortunate impact upon American consumers of artificial sweeteners.

With this one clarification in mind, we can still proceed to the inescapable conclusion to which the Washington Post article leads us, however. The Delaney amendment is an unwieldy tool with which to judge and act upon questions of a most delicate nature; in a subject area open to much dispute and some conjecture we rely upon an enforcement mechanism which stands flatfooted upon the ground, as if this were a question of black and white.

In my opinion, Congress should not expeditiously to amend the law to allow FDA and the Secretary of HEW greater discretion in selecting the appropriate remedy in the gray areas where they are forced by lack of hard data or precedent to make what amounts to little more than a judgment call.

In 1958, when the Delaney amendment was adopted, our knowledge of carcinogens was not so well developed as today; few of us suspected the extent to which cancer-causing agents may have pervaded our environment. Evidence now seems to indicate that potential carcinogens are so widespread that it is nearly pointless to try to evade them all.

Until we have more information about the nature of the disease and its causes, I fear that the general public has little defense but to become increasingly fatalistic about its continual exposure to substances which, in one forum or another have been labeled as "cancer-causing agents."

In light of all this confusion, the Delaney amendment becomes a greater obstacle to the general public than a safeguard, unless an important change is made. As testing methods become more and more precise, an increasing number of food additives formerly regarded as safe—sometimes for decades—will be swept off the market by the Delaney amendment in much the same way the manager's cane used to whisk bad acts from the vaudeville stage. Please note that more precise tests are not necessarily more valid tests, particularly if the underlying assumptions are incorrect, namely, hypothetically, the rat-human connection.

Obviously, the Congress needs to introduce a modicum of discretion and commonsense into a rigid statute, if we are to keep any food products on the shelves until the time when we unlock the mysteries of cancer and isolate its causes.

Today, I am introducing a bill to do just that. My proposal amends the Delaney amendment to allow the Secretary of HEW to balance the potential danger of a food additive's remaining on the market against the benefits which society might derive from its continued availability. In the case at hand, the Secretary would balance the dangers posed by the continuing availability of saccharin, as demonstrated by the Canadian rat tests, with the demonstrated need which diabetics and chronically overweight people have for this commodity.

Once the Secretary had determined that the potential benefits of keeping saccharine on the market outweighed the drawbacks, three paths lay open to him: First, he could order further testing of the substance to verify or improve upon the results of the previous tests, and the product could remain on the market during this evaluation period; second, he could require all foods containing the additive to be labeled with a public warning that ingestion of the additive may be hazardous to the health of the consumer; or third, in the most severe cases, he could allow the additive to remain on the market only with a physician's prescription.

I think that this is a balanced approach, and do not believe that it in any way compromises the ability of the FDA and HEW to remove a carcinogenic food additive from the market. Realistically speaking, the importance of the Delaney amendment lies in its moral force rather than in its effectiveness as a tool. The legislative history of the 1958 amendments to the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act make this point clear:

. . . the bill is aimed at preventing the addition to the food our people eat of any substances the ingestion of which reasonable people would expect to produce not just cancer but any disease or disability . . . the bill reads or means the same with or without the inclusion of the clause referred to (the Delaney amendment) This is also the view of the Food and Drug Administration

In response to all those Americans who could be asked to forego saccharin in the near future and countless other substances in the long run, I think that the Congress has an obligation to change this law, so that there will be at least as much chance of equity as of inequity arising from its enforcement. The present situation is, I believe, unacceptable, and will grow more so as time goes by

For instance, a staff member of mine, patriotic in his breakfast beverage, drinks diet soda, not coffee, each morning. He observed last week that even on the hottest Texas summer day, he had consumed, as best he recalled, only 23 cans. Even with substantial force-feeding he saw no way in which he could have consumed many more. Certainly he could not drink the 777 additional cans necessary to imbibe the quantity of saccharin carcinogenic to the bladder of a Canadian rat. And I believe that anyone who can drink 23 cans in a day probably has a bladder of more strength than any rat

The moral of the story, of course, is that we must be reasonable in our assessments. The text of my reasonable legislation follows:

H.R. 5134

A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act to provide the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare with greater latitude in regulating food additives found to induce cancer in man or animal

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 409 (c)(3) of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 348(c)(3)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating clauses (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (A) as subclauses (I) and (II), respectively, and by inserting after "shall not apply with respect to" in such paragraph the following: "(i) any food additive intended to be used as an ingredient of food for human consumption with respect to which additive the Secretary has determined that the benefits derived from the availability of the additive outweigh the dangers its availability poses to the public health and safety, and (ii)"; and

(2) by adding after and below subparagraph (B) the following:

"In the case of a food additive with respect to which the Secretary has made the determination described in subparagraph (A)(i), the Secretary may include in a regulation promulgated under this section for such additive such restrictions on the use of the additive as the Secretary considers appropriate. The term "restrictions" includes: (i) continued availability of the additive to the public while appropriate testing continues, to verify the results of prior tests; or (ii) a